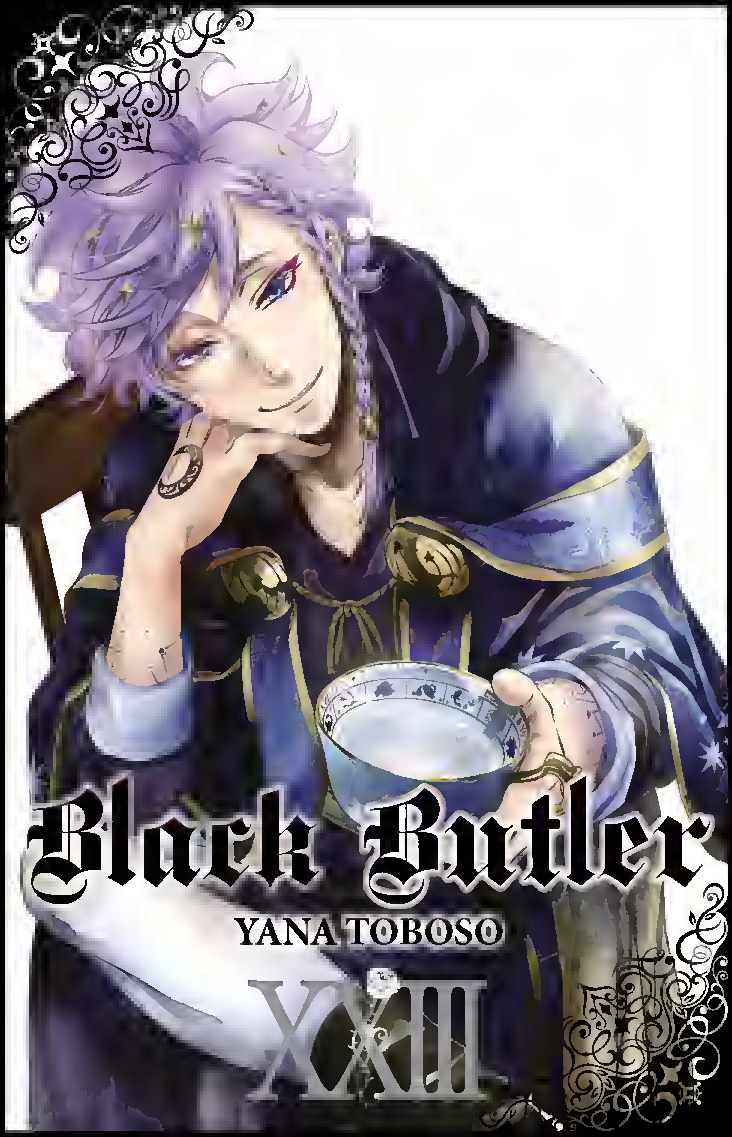

Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO
XXIII

Black Butler
XVII
YANA TOBOSO

Contents

Chapter 109

In the morning ... 3

The Butler, Fanatical

Chapter 110

At noon 29

The Butler, Astonished

Chapter 111

In the afternoon .. 53

The Butler, A Thief

Chapter 112

In the evening 75

The Butler, Soloing

Chapter 113

At night 107

The Butler, Independent

Chapter 114

At midnight 141

The Butler, Assaulting

MILORD.
SLEEP AWHILE LONGER.
IT'S STILL...
...TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO AWAKEN.

Chapter 109

In the morning : The Butler, Fanatical

Black Butler

PHEW ...
BYU (SWING)
ビュッ
BYU
ビュッ
IT'S NEARLY SEPTEMBER— I'LL BE IN THE UPPER SIXTH, MY LAST YEAR.
I REALLY HAVE TO BRACE UP AND FOCUS AS A PREFECT.
YOUNG MASTER EDWARD
A GUEST HAS ARRIVED FOR YOU.
PAULA
PATATA CHATTERA
I'VE NOT EVEN GOTTEN SO MUCH AS A CALLING CARD WHO IN THE WORLD COULD IT BE . ?
FOR ME?

FORGIVE ME FOR DROPPING IN ON YOU SO SUDDENLY.
IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME
!!
YOU—! ER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, GREENHILL?
NOT LETTING YOUR TRAINING SLIDE AS USUAL, I SEE.
WITH YOU AS A PREFECT, WESTON COLLEGE HAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
... AFTER EVERY-THING YOU'VE DONE ...
... THAT'S RICH, COMING FROM YOU .....

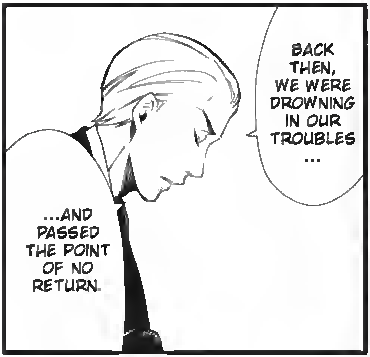
...PERPETRATED A FOOLISH AND UNFORGIVABLE MISDEED.
RATHER... AS HUMAN BEINGS—
...AS PREFECTS OF WESTON COLLEGE—
I...NO, WE...
.....MAKES SENSE, YOU BEING ANGRY WITH ME.

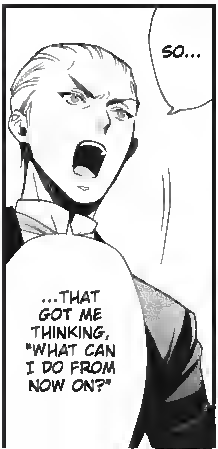
I'D HEARD THAT THE ADMINIS-TRATION HUSHED UP THE INCIDENT AND THAT THE FOUR ESCAPED IMPRISONMENT AND WERE MERELY EXPELLED—
TO PROTECT ITS TRADITIONS AND REPUTATION, FOUR PREFECTS RESORTED TO MURDER.
THE ILLUS-TRIOUS PUBLIC SCHOOL, WESTON COLLEGE.

...THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I'VE COME TO SEE YOU.
BUT...
I'M TOO ASHAMED TO FACE YOU.
HOWEVER MUCH I REPENT, IT'LL NEVER BE ENOUGH.

WORRIES ...?

MIDFORD
DO YOU HAVE ANY WORRIES?

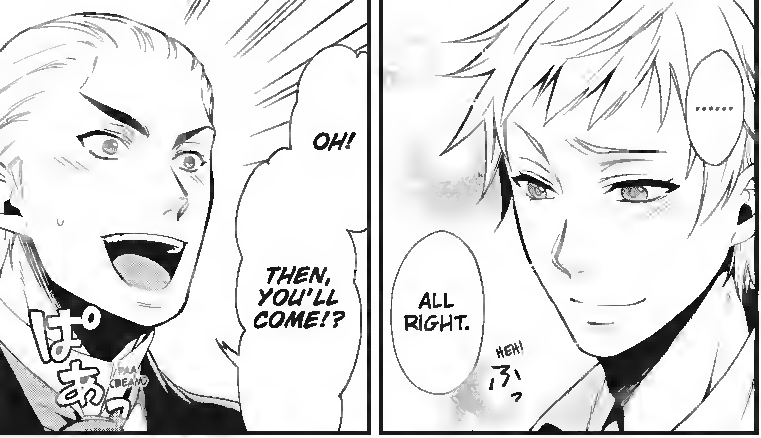

BACK THEN, WE WERE DROWNING IN OUR TROUBLES ...
...AND PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN.


SO...
...THAT GOT ME THINKING, "WHAT CAN I DO FROM NOW ON?"

EVEN AFTER WE LEFT WESTON, WE WERE TORTURED BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT WE'D DONE.
BUT...
...WE CAN NEVER UNDO OUR TRANS-GRESSION, NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE LAMENT IT.

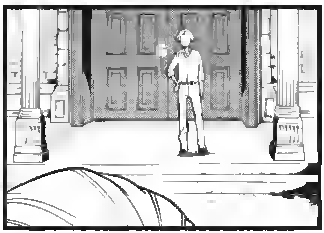
I'M NO LONGER WHO I USED TO BE.
MY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS HAS GROWN.
WE GET TOGETHER REGULARLY AND TALK ABOUT ALL KINDS OF THINGS.
THE OTHER THREE FEEL THE SAME WAY.
EVERY SINGLE DAY...
...IS RADIANT TO ME!
OH...
...I SEE.
A PREFECT SHOULDERS HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES
I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY TO BROOD OVER TOO
I DON'T WANT YOU TO END UP LIKE US.
SO!

HUH!?
...WON'T YOU JOIN OUR MEETINGS?
MIDFORD...
IF YOU HAVE A PLACE TO AIR THE GRIEVANCES AND ANXIETIES THAT YOU CAN'T SHOW TO YOUR UNDER-CLASSMEN...
...IT WILL HELP YOU FEEL MORE AT EASE.
BUT MORE THAN ANY-THING ELSE...
...FOR ALL MY SINS...
...I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU AGAIN LIKE WE USED TO.


.....
ALL RIGHT.
HEH!
OH!
THEN, YOU'LL COME!?
はっ
PAAA (BEAM)

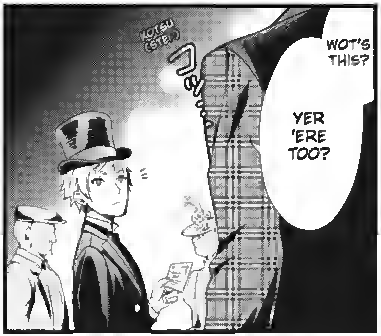
SEE YOU SOOOON!
WE GET TOGETHER EVERY SATURDAY.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, MIDFORD!
WITH THIS INVITATION, ANYONE CAN ATTEND!
R—
RIGHT

Sphere Music Hall
on Saturdays
at eight o'clock
SPHERE MUSIC HALL...



KAGA (SHIFF)

Sphere
Music Hall


WOT'S THIS?
YER 'ERE TOO?
TOTSUZEN (SUDDENLY)

SO THIS IS SPHERE MUSIC HALL ...?

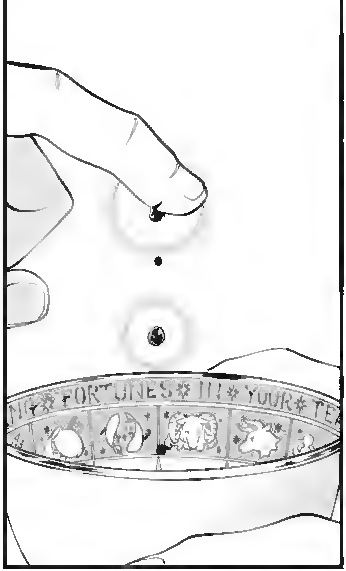
DID VIOLET INVITE YOU?
S'POSE SO.

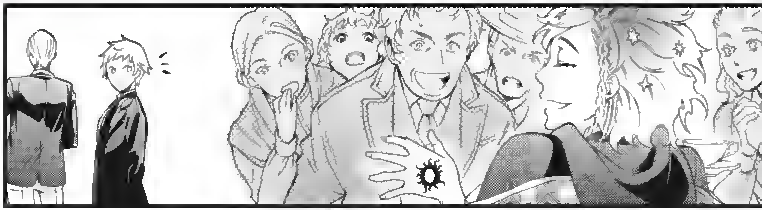
HIYA.
CHESLOCK!

ZAWA (CHATTER)
ざわ
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME AT A MUSIC HALL.
THERE'S QUITE A VARIETY OF PEOPLE HERE.
Y'DO REALISE MUSIC HALLS'RE FOR AVERAGE FOLK?
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM STUFFY OPERA HOUSES RESERVED FOR TOFFS.
ざわ
ZAWA
...STILL ...
...FEELS LIKE THERE MIGHT BE TOO MANY.

NEVER SEEN FREE NIBBLES SERVED LIKE THIS BEFORE EITHER.
ざわ
ZAWA
Free
ZAWA
ざわ
COULD BE THE CHARITABLE WORK OF SOME NOBLE OR OTHER.
MIDFORD! CHESLOCK!

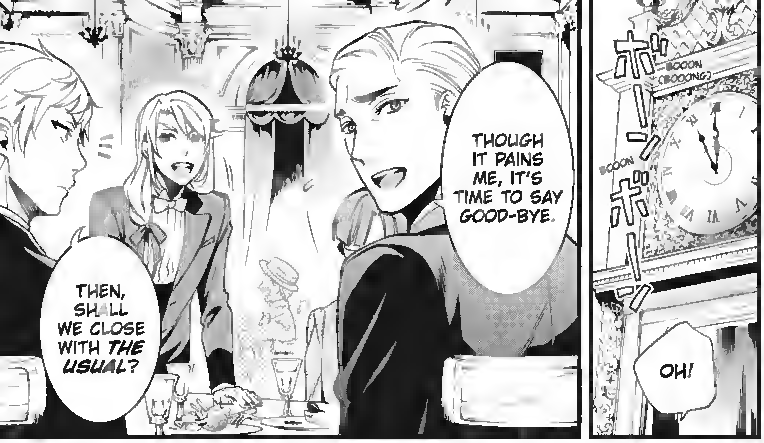
IT'S FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY TOGETHER!
SOCIAL STATUS HAS NO PLACE HERE.
ALL OF US, TOGETHER!
TODAY, WE TALK!
.....
...WITH ONE ANOTHER AND EVERYONE HERE! TOGETHER!
LET'S EXPAND OUR HORIZONS AND SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE...
CHEERS!
LET US PASS THIS RADIANT TIME IN ONE ANOTHER'S COMPANY!
NOW, FRIENDS!

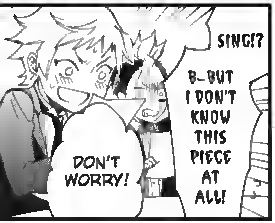

FORTUNES
YOUR

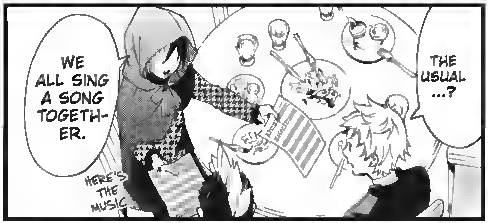


I DON'T REALLY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THAT SORT OF THING, YOU MIGHT SAY...
NO, THAT'S NOT MY CUP OF TEA...
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE HIM TELL YOURS?
HIS FORTUNES ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR ACCURACY.

GREENHILL, WHAT'RE THEY DOING THERE?
OHH. YOU MEAN MISTER BLAVAT'S DIVINATION?

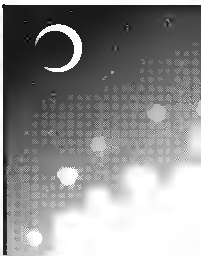

THEN, SHALL WE CLOSE WITH THE USUAL?
THOUGH IT PAINS ME, IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
ボーン ボーン
BOOON (BOOONG)
BOOON
OH!


SING!?
B-BUT I DON'T KNOW THIS PIECE AT ALL!
DON'T WORRY!

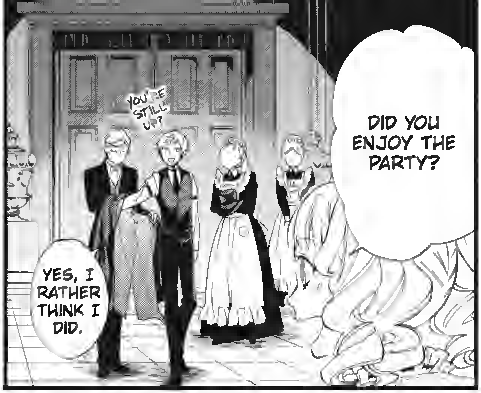

WE ALL SING A SONG TOGETHER.
THE USUAL ...?
HERE'S THE MUSIC

IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU CAN'T HOLD A TUNE OR MIX UP THE WORDS!
SIMPLY SINGING AT THE TOP OF YOUR LUNGS FEELS GRAND!

WELCOME HOME, BROTHER!



HOW VERY NICE! I WISH I COULD GO TOO.


YOU'RE STILL UP?
DID YOU ENJOY THE PARTY?
YES, I RATHER THINK I DID.

DO YOU MEAN IT!?
I'M SO HAPPY!
..... RIGHT.
HOW ABOUT WE GO TOGETHER NEXT TIME?

HMMM..
.....

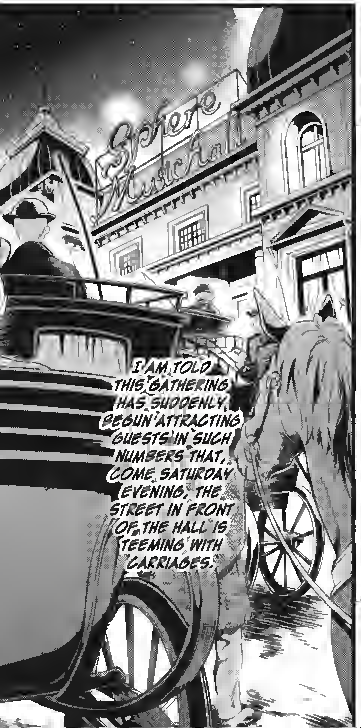
DRESSED UP OR NOT...
...YOU'RE THE CUTEST IN ALL THE WORLD, LIZZIE!

I JUST CAN'T WAIT!
I'LL HAVE TO DRESS TO THE NINES!

JUST LEAVE IT THERE
HM?
YOUNG MASTER.
A LETTER HAS ARRIVED FOR YOU.
!
IT'S FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN...!

OF THE CAKES THAT I SENT HOME WITH YOU, WHICH DID YOU LIKE BEST?
PHIP'S IS JUST DYING TO KNOW, SO DO TELL ME NEXT TIME, ALL RIGHT?

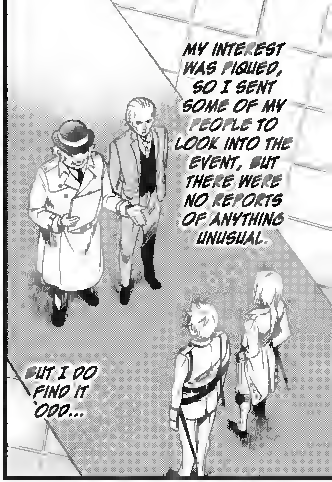
MY DEAR BOY,
OUR TEA PARTY THE OTHER DAY WAS GREAT FUN.


I AM TOLD THIS GATHERING HAS SUDDENLY BEGUN ATTRACTING GUESTS IN SUCH NUMBERS THAT, COME SATURDAY EVENING, THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE HALL IS TEEMING WITH CARRIAGES.

BY THE WAY, MY BOY... HAVE YOU HEARD OF A CURIOUS GATHERING...
...HELD EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT AT A CERTAIN MUSIC HALL?

MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES ARE SAID TO BE ENTHRALLED BY IT, BE THEY PEERS OR LABOURERS.

...THAT THOSE I SENT REMAIN AT THE MUSIC HALL EVEN AFTER THEIR INVESTIGATION HAS ENDED.


MY INTEREST WAS PIQUED, SO I SENT SOME OF MY PEOPLE TO LOOK INTO THE EVENT, BUT THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF ANYTHING UNUSUAL.
BUT I DO FIND IT ODD...

WHAT COULD REALLY BE GOING ON INSIDE THAT MUSIC HALL?
KAGA (SMF)
カサ…
I HAVE NEVER, BEFORE, HEARD OF PARTIES, THAT PERMIT ALL SORTS TO ATTEND.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT, MY BOY?
Sphere Music Hall
on Saturdays
at eight o'clock
We would like to invite you to come and enjoy with us
Please feel free to invite your family and friends
I FEAR THAT THIS MAY BE SOME MANNER OF EVIL SCHEME... AND I AM A TRIFLE CONCERNED.

SPHERE MUSIC HALL...?
NEVER HEARD OF IT.
(STOMP)
BAN (WHAM)
CIEL!!
EDWARD?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE GONE PALE.
HAAH!
HAAH...!
LI—

LIZZIE'S ...
...RUN AWAY FROM HOME ...!
!?

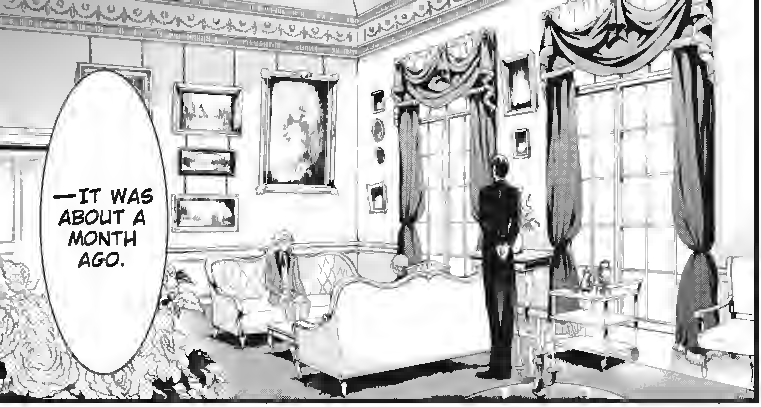
Black Butler

Chapter 110

At noon : The Butler, Astonished

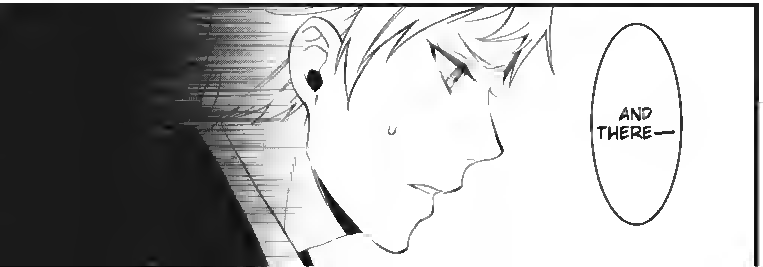
LIZZIE'S ...
...RUN AWAY FROM HOME...
!?

IF ONLY I HADN'T TAKEN HER TO THAT PLACE —!
BUT WHY WOULD DEAR LIZZIE, EVER BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL, JUST —!?
PLEASE, LORD EDWARD, TAKE A BREATH AND CALM YOURSELF.
WHAT CALAMITY COULD POSSIBLY HAVE TAKEN PLACE?
.....


—IT WAS ABOUT A MONTH AGO.

THE COMPANY PRESENT WAS MADE UP OF ALL SORTS..
..BUT THE MEETING ITSELF WAS PERFECTLY ORDINARY. AN ALTOGETHER WHOLESOME, ENJOYABLE WAY TO PASS AN EVENING ...
AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK, I TOOK LIZZIE ALONG, AFTER SHE CAJOLED ME INCESSANTLY TO DO SO.

GREENHILL SUDDENLY CAME CALLING..
...AND INVITED ME TO ATTEND A CERTAIN MEETING.


AND THERE—

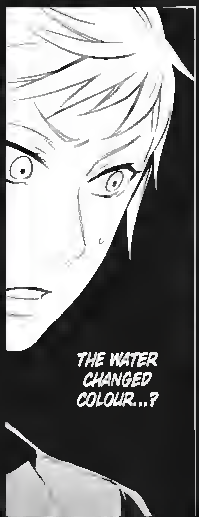
...WHAT ARE THEY DOING THERE?
EDWARD...
HOW WONDER-FUL!
I'LL GO HAVE MY FORTUNE TOLD TOO!
AH! WAIT.
AAH, HE'S A FORTUNE-TELLER, I HEAR.
WORD HAS IT HIS PREDICTIONS ARE QUITE ACCURATE...
HE'S A DIVINER!?
IS THE HEART IN YOUR CHEST WAVERING AMONGST SEVERAL GENTLEMEN?
I'M AMAZED! HOW COULD YOU TELL!?
MY KID SISTER'S OBSESSED WITH THESE TOO
YOU'LL GET LOST IF YOU RUN!
WOMEN REALLY DO LIKE THOSE SORTS OF THINGS.

HA-HA-HA...
WHAT A THING TO SAY TO A LADY! HONESTLY, MISTER BLAVAT!
NI!-HA-HA! FORGIVE ME. FORGIVE ME.
どぴっ!!
DO CHUAKU
EH!?
I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING.
YOU'RE QUITE WELL-ENDOWED.
BUT BEFORE YOU TAKE YOUR PICK OF THEM...
...WHY NOT CAST YOUR GAZE ELSEWHERE?
NIKO (SMILE)
...PERHAPS.
YOU'LL FIND RADIANCE THERE.
UMM...
WILL YOU TELL MY FORTUNE TOO?
CERTAINLY.
...Y...
YES...
DO CHUSHO

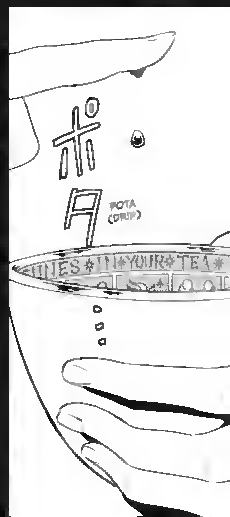
REALLY NOW...
...EDWARD.
ARE YOU TELLING LIZZIE TO PRICK HER LILY-WHITE FINGERS!?

IF YOU'LL SIMPLY PRICK YOUR FINGERTIP AND PLACE A DROP OF BLOOD INTO THIS CUP...
...I'LL THEN BE ABLE TO FORETELL YOUR FUTURE.

I'M ALWAYS PRICKING MYSELF WHEN I EMBROIDER, SO I CAN HANDLE THIS JUST FINE!
PUSU (PRICK)
AHGH!
THERE WE GO!


THE WATER CHANGED COLOUR...?

JIWA (SEEEP)


POTA (DRIP)

IT APPEARS THAT YOU ARE UNDER THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF CANOPUS.
KANOWPUSS?
HERE, SOME GAUZE.
WHAT A VERY RARE STAR.
OHH...
IT'S A STAR THAT SHINES BRIGHT AT THE KEEL OF ARGO.
THOSE PROTECTED BY CANOPUS...
...MOVE TO THEIR OWN RHYTHM AND ARE IN POSSESSION OF UNIQUE CHARACTER.
MANY ARE STUBBORNLY FIXATED ON THINGS, SUCH AS THEIR HOBBIES...
...AND ARE THE TYPE TO HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF PURPOSE.

I CAN SENSE ANOTHER STRONG OBSESSION IN YOU AS WELL..
IT'S YOUR FAMILY—
NO.

あ
DOBON!!
YOU'RE... QUITE FASTIDIOUS ABOUT YOUR CLOTHES AND SHOES, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE RIGHT!

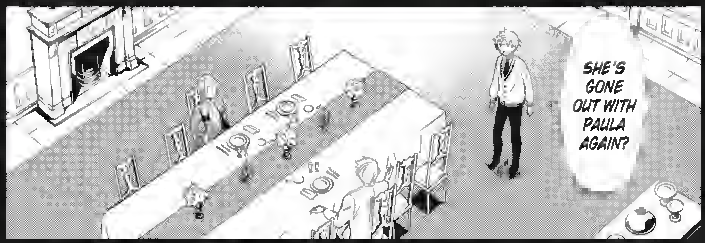
AND YOU ARE QUITE DISTRESSED ABOUT HIM FOR SOME REASON.

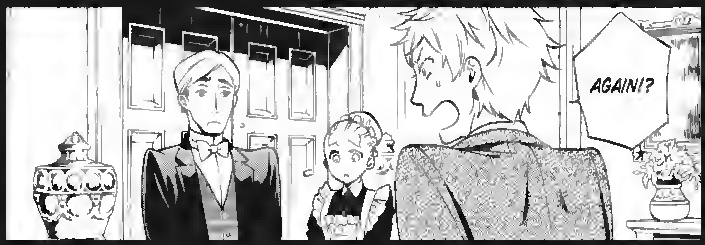
IT'S YOUR FIANCÉ, ISN'T IT?

HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT AS WELL?

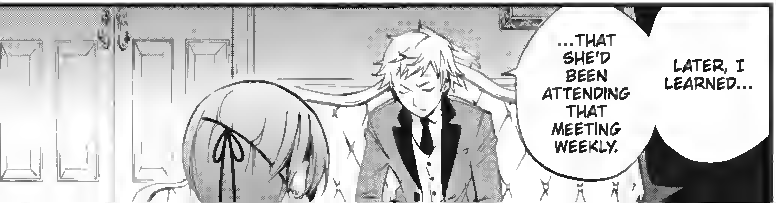
H—
HOW CAN YOU TELL...?
.....
WELL, YOU SEE...
...YOU'RE RATHER LESS BLESSED THAN THE WOMAN WHO WAS JUST HERE...
DO (ROAR)
...SO I CAN LOOK DEEPER INTO YOUR HEAAART!
HUH !?
NII HA HA!
YOU KNAVE! HOW DARE YOU LAY YOUR LECHEROUS EYES ON LIZZIE!?
GAKU (SHAKE)
GAKU
EDWARD, STOP!
UNAAAAA
JOKING ASIDE,
.. A BRIGHT FUTURE LIES BEYOND YOUR ANGUISH.
THAT IS WHAT THE STARS ARE WHISPERING.
BEYOND ...
...MY ANGUISH ...

IF YOU WISH TO KNOW MORE, PLEASE COME SEE ME AGAIN FOR ANOTHER CONSULTATION.
NEVER!!
WE'RE GOING HOME, LIZZIE!
MOTHER, WHERE'S LIZZIE?
—OH?
HMM...
SHE SAID SHE'D HAD A DINNER INVITATION FROM A FRIEND...
...AND WENT OUT WITH PAULA.


SHE'S GONE OUT WITH PAULA AGAIN?


AGAIN!?

AND AFTER THAT, LIZZIE STOPPED COMING HOME...


LATER, I LEARNED...
...THAT SHE'D BEEN ATTENDING THAT MEETING WEEKLY.

...AT SPHERE MUSIC HALL.
IT'S HELD...
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME —!?
!!

I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE LADY ELIZABETH WOULD LEAVE HOME BECAUSE OF THE ENTICEMENTS OF SOME FORTUNE-TELLER.
THERE MUST SURELY BE MORE TO THESE GATHERINGS THAN SIMPLE ENTERTAINMENT.
"I BID YOU TO MAKE ENQUIRIES INTO THIS CURIOUS GATHERING THAT HAS GUESTS FLOCKING TO IT IN DROVES."
THAT'S THE REQUEST WE'VE ONLY JUST HAD FROM HER MAJESTY.
!
YES...HER POWERS OF OBSERVATION ARE FEARSOME INDEED.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD AGAIN, DOESN'T IT?

I CAN SEE LIZZIE IF I GO TO THE MUSIC HALL.
BUT...
OUR PRIORITY IS LOCATING LIZZIE.
NO.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.

.....
RADI-
ANCE
...?

I'M SORRY, EDWARD.
COME HOME, LIZZIE!

...MY RADIANCE LIES HERE.
I HAVEN'T GROWN TO HATE HOME OR ANYTHING.
IT'S JUST THAT..

WE'RE OFF TO SPHERE MUSIC HALL!

WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO GO THERE AND SEE FOR OUR-SELVES.
SEBASTIAN, SEE TO A CARRIAGE!
YES, SIR.

I'VE GONE THERE OVER AND OVER TO TRY TO CONVINCE HER TO RETURN HOME. BUT SHE SAYS THE SAME THING EVERY TIME
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE

Opera House
ザワ
ZAWA (CHATTER)
THIS IS SOME CROWD.
PEOPLE OF ALL STRIPES REALLY ARE PRESENT.
I DON'T SEE GREENHILL AND THE OTHER FORMER PREFECTS TODAY.
LIZZIE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HERE EITHER.

I CAME AFTER HEARING ABOUT HOW ENJOY-ABLE THIS PLACE IS, BUT...
...WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR ACTIVITIES HERE?

GOOD EVENING!
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME?
YES.
IT IS.

WE COME HERE TO PASS THIS RADIANT TIME IN ONE ANOTHER'S COMPANY.

HMMM, THIS ISN'T REALLY FORMAL ENOUGH TO HAVE ANY SORT OF PURPOSE.
WE'RE ALWAYS CHATTERING AWAY WITH ONE ANOTHER ...
...AND SHARING ADVICE.
I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT SAY WE PURIFY OURSELVES HERE SO WE CAN LIVE EACH DAY WITH A POSITIVE OUTLOOK!

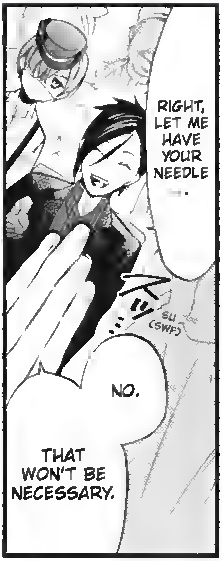
RADI-ANT... YOU SAY?
WE'RE NOT SLAVES TO SOCIAL STATUS HERE. YOU CAN TALK WITH ANYONE YOU LIKE!
ISN'T THAT SO!?
THIS REALLY IS SUCH A DELIGHTFUL PLACE!
THAT SOUNDS GRAND!
DOESN'T IT JUST !?
PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELVES!
SHARA (JINGLE)
.....
IT'S ALL VERY UN-SETTLING, IF YOU ASK ME.
INDEED.

DESIRE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CHARM OF MANKIND.
BEING HERE IS UN-BEAR-ABLY DULL.
HATRED... ENVY..THE COUNTLESS OTHER DESIRES HUMANS POSSESS WITHIN...
...ARE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND ON THE FACES OF THOSE GATHERED HERE.
TSUN (TUG)
CIEL.
That's Blavat.
The fortune-teller.
WELL, THEN, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GET OUR FORTUNES TOLD?
SHALL WE?
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT OUR FUTURES HOLD.

IF HE CAN DIVINE THE SORROWS OF A DEVIL...
...I THINK WE CAN SAFELY SAY HE'S NO CHARLATAN.
MY MASTER BEING FAR TOO SELFISH IS MY PRIMARY CONCERN.
OTHER THAN THAT, MY MIND IS FREE OF WORRIES FOR HIM TO HIT UPON.
I'M SO VERY GRATEFUL! THANK YOU!
MAY I BE NEXT?
STEP RIIIIIGHT UP!
!!

?
YOU TWO ARE...
FU CFWSHU
DID THE AIR JUST SHIFT...?
GATA (CLACK)
ALL RIGHT.
HAVE A SEAT.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF ANY STAR.


RIGHT, LET ME HAVE YOUR NEEDLE.
SU (SWF)
NO.
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

SU
AND THAT'S 'COS—
GUI (YANK)

I CAN TELL THAT MUCH JUST BY THE SIGHT OF YOU.

YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, ARE YOU?
WHAT ...!?

Black Butler

CHAPTER 1-1

In the afternoon : The Butler, A Thief

YOU'RE...
...NOT HUMAN ARE YOU?

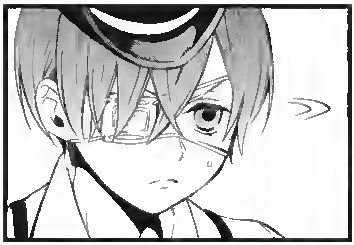
!?

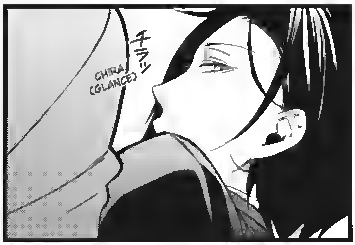
...
WHY
...
...DO YOU BELIEVE I AM NOT HUMAN?
PA (FWP)
LET ME GUESS! ARE YOU THINKING THAT MAYBE I TOO AM SOME-THING OTHER THAN HUMAN?
NU HA HA!
YOU'RE STUNNED! YOU'RE ASTOUNDED! ♫
OH!

I CAN TELL...
...JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU.
HEH!
WHAT A STRANGE QUESTION TO ASK!
YOU'RE THE DARKNESS THAT SWALLOWS UP THE RADIANCE OF STARS SHINING WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT.
THE STARS THAT ARE DRAWN TO YOU STRAY FROM THEIR ORBITS TO WANDER THE MURK FOR ALL ETERNITY.
YES, YOU'RE JUST LIKE...

* PRIOR TO 1967, BLACK HOLES WERE KNOWN AS "COLLAPSARS."

PITA CHUUSA?
ぴた
GU (SWF)
THE LITTLE STARS ARE SCARED OF YOU.
I'M SORRY, BUT MAY I ASK YOU TO LEAVE?
THIS INSTANT.
!!




チラッ
CHIRA (GLANCE)

WHAT'S GOING ON?
HAS HE REALLY FIGURED OUT WHAT SEBASTIAN IS—?

OH!
H-HEY, WAIT...
ざわ
ZAWA (MURMURING)
YOU COME WITH US, NOW.
ざわ
ZAWA

CAN'T REALLY CALL IT THAT.
WE JUST WORK TOGETHER AT THE FACTORY, IS ALL. HE'S BEEN AT IT LONGER THAN ME...

ARE YOU A FRIEND OF HIS?
HUH!?

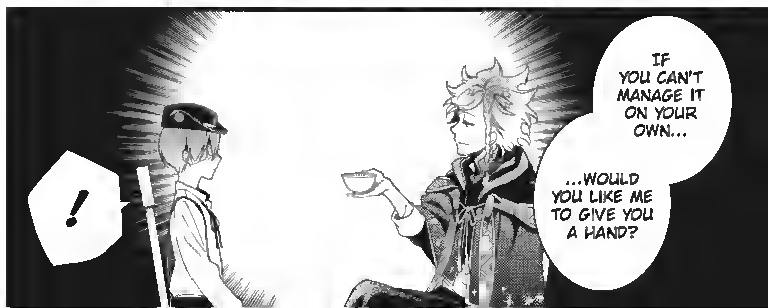
BUT MY CO-WORK-ER...
WE'VE JUST TAKEN HIM OUTSIDE.
NII-HA-HA! DON'T YOU WORRY.
WE MEAN HIM NO HARM.
OHHH?
WELL, NEVER MIND THAT. YOU DON'T STRIKE ME AS A COLLAP-SAR.
WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR FORTUNE TOLD?
W-WELL, IF YOU CAN MAKE IT QUICK...
I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS A LOT.
OHH... YOU'RE —!
JIWA (SEE?)
POTA (PLIP)
FORTUNE

NYA-HAAAA! IT'S SIRIUS!
DOYO (STIR)
YOU'RE FAVOURED BY THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF SIRIUS!!

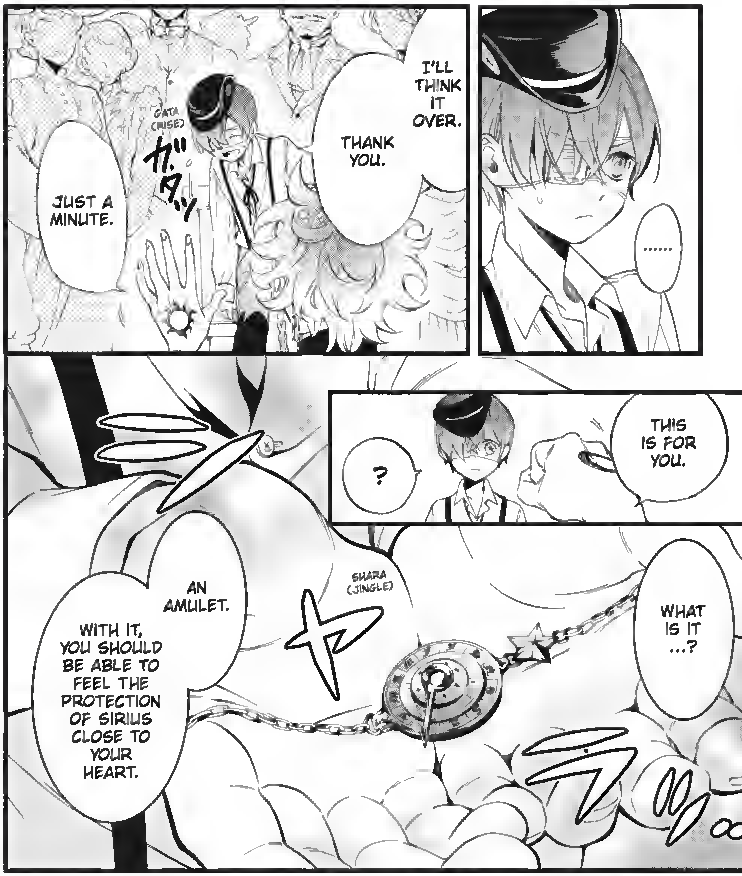
WAY TO GO, YOU LUCKY LAD! THAT'S A FIRST MAGNITUDE STAR, THAT IS!!
I'VE NEVER MET SOMEONE PROTECTED BY SIRIUS BEFORE!
I'M SOOO JEALOUS!
SI... SIRIUS?

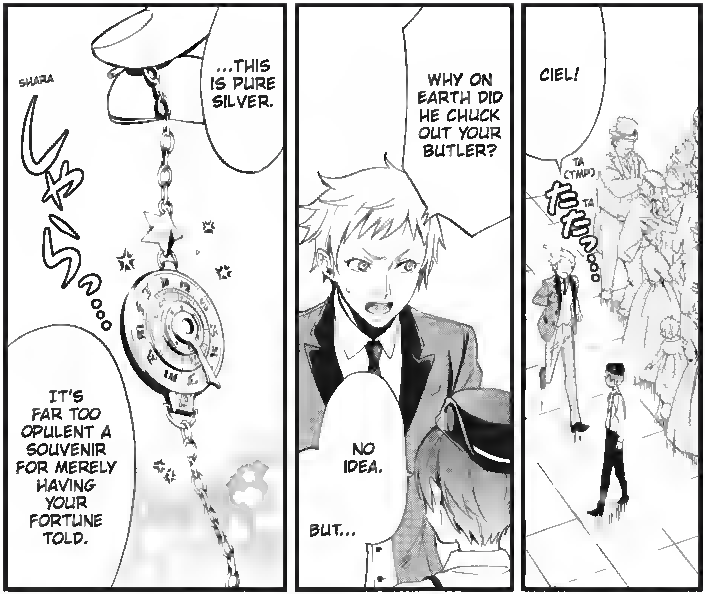
EVERY PERSON IS UNDER THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF A STAR.
BUT VERY FEW CAN COUNT THEMSELVES BLESSED BY SIRIUS, A STAR OF THE FIRST MAGNITUDE.
POLARIS. VEGA. CANOPUS. SIRIUS.
A WONDERFUL RADIANCE LIES WITHIN YOU.
THOSE PROTECTED BY SIRIUS HAVE LOFTY IDEALS AND THE AIR OF GENIUS ABOUT THEM
THEY OFTEN TEND TO BE EXTREMELY TWO-FACED AS WELL.
BUT...
GU (SWF)

...THE DARKNESS I GLIMPSED EARLIER IS CLINGING ON TO YOUR LIGHT.
CARRY ON LIKE THIS, AND YOUR RADIANCE WILL BE LOST TO YOU.
IT MIGHT BE WISE TO GET AWAY FROM HIM AT ONCE.


IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE IT ON YOUR OWN...
...WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO GIVE YOU A HAND?
!

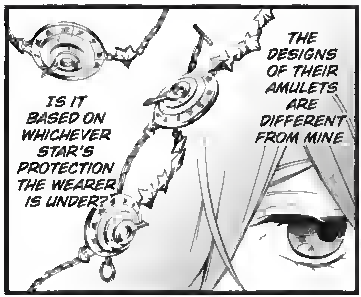
THIS GUY...
...JUST HOW SERIOUS IS HE?
IS HE, IN FACT, SOMETHING THAT'S PLAYING AT BEING HUMAN TOO?
OR—
NII-HA-HA! YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO GRIM.
BUT, YOU KNOW...
JA (SPLASH)
...IF YOU TAKE IT EASY...
...THE END WILL BE UPON YOU IN NO TIME.


JUST A MINUTE.
GATA (RISE)
I'LL THINK IT OVER.
THANK YOU.
.....
?
THIS IS FOR YOU.
AN AMULET.
WITH IT, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEEL THE PROTECTION OF SIRIUS CLOSE TO YOUR HEART.
SHARA (JINGLE)
WHAT IS IT ...?
IF YOU FIND YOURSELF IN NEED OF ADVICE, DROP BY ANYTIME
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

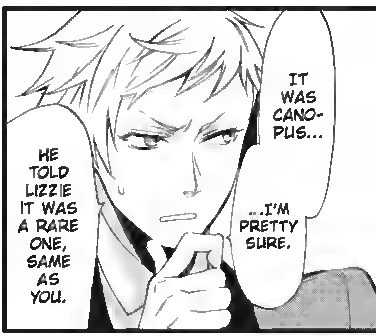

CIEL!
TA (TMP)
TA
TA
WHY ON EARTH DID HE CHUCK OUT YOUR BUTLER?
NO IDEA.
BUT...
...THIS IS PURE SILVER.
SHARA
しゃらっ。。。
IT'S FAR TOO OPULENT A SOUVENIR FOR MERELY HAVING YOUR FORTUNE TOLD.

SHARA
しゃらっ。。。

COME TO THINK OF IT...
...WHAT WAS LIZZIE'S STAR?
ER...

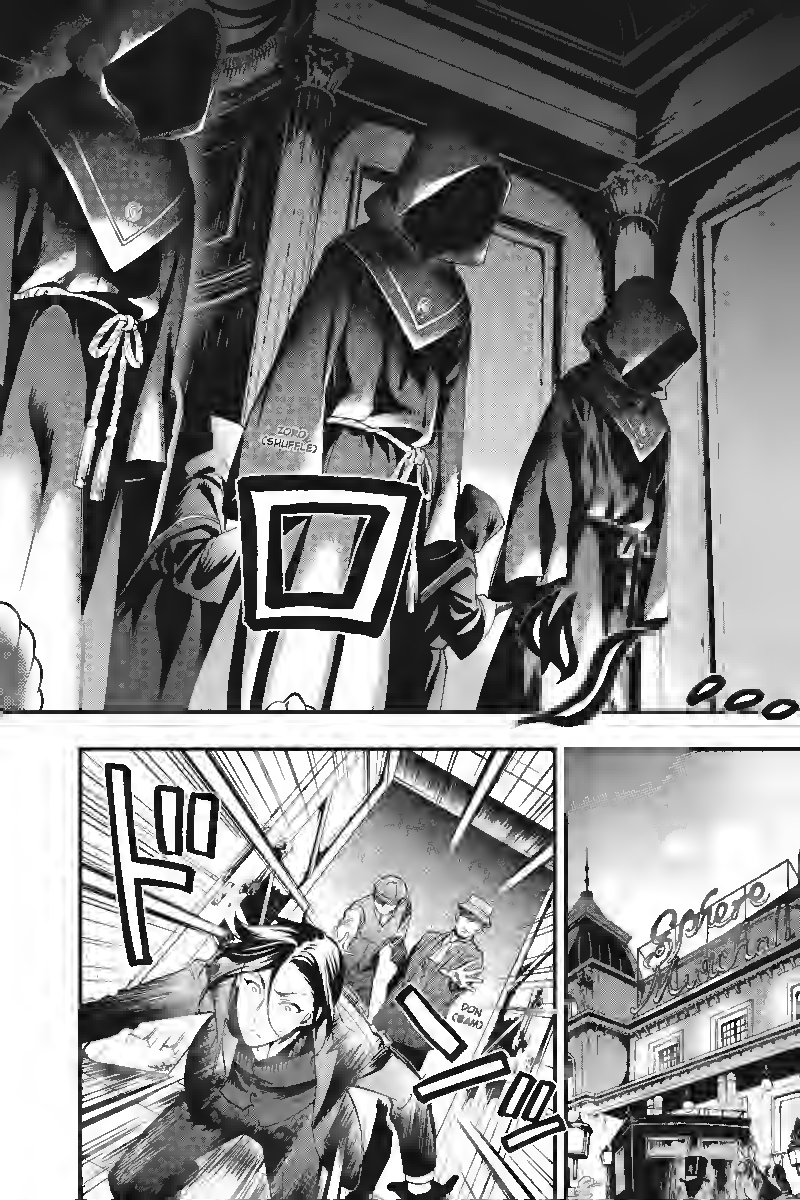

THE DESIGNS OF THEIR AMULETS ARE DIFFERENT FROM MINE
IS IT BASED ON WHICHEVER STAR'S PROTECTION THE WEARER IS UNDER?

BOOON (RONG)
BOOON
HE MENTIONED VEGA AND POLARIS TOO..


IT WAS CANOPUS...
...I'M PRETTY SURE.
HE TOLD LIZZIE IT WAS A RARE ONE, SAME AS YOU.

IT'S TIME FOR CAROLLING!
IT'S ALREADY GONE ELEVEN?
WA (CHEER)

ZAWA
ZAWA
CAROL-LING...?
YEAH.
THE MEETINGS CLOSE WITH EVERYONE SINGING TOGETHER, BUT...
...THINGS SEEM A BIT OFF TODAY SOMEHOW...
BASHI
DON'T BE SILLYYY!!
TODAY'S THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH!
GEGUH!
FU
HERE WE GO, EVERY-ONE!
KOTSU
KOTSU


BOMO (SHUFFLE)
ドロ
DON (BAM)
Opera

!?

THOSE WITHOUT THE PROTECTION OF A STAR AREN'T WELCOME HERE.
SO DON'T COME BACK!
THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF THE STARS... A FORTUNE-TELLER WHO SAW ME FOR WHAT I AM...
!
THIS PRESENCE... I COULD IT BE...!?

I KNEW IT...A CAT!!
KYUUUN (SWOON)
WHAT LUSCIOUS FUR YOU HAVE!!
PUNI (SQUISH)
PUNI
PUNI
A SOFT, LONG COAT AND WHITE PAWS...
OHH...! I ADORE CATS...
HAAH...
WERE THE YOUNG MASTER NOT ALLERGIC, I WOULD HAVE ONE OF MY OWN AT THE MANOR.
I PITY HIM FOR NEVER KNOWING THIS PLEASURE ...
SUN
SUN
SUN

THIS WILL NOT GO VERY FAR TOWARD FILLING YOUR BELLY, I FEAR
SHIEK (SHIEK)
GOSO (GOSO)
GOSO (GOSO)
...OH?
I DO BEG YOUR PARDON.
SU (SWIF)
NOW, THEN.

IT SEEMS MY MASTER WILL BE IN THERE FOR SOME TIME YET.

I IMAGINED SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN, SO...
...I HAVE SMOKED SALMON AT THE READY IN THE CARRIAGE.
WILL YOU DO ME THE HONOUR OF JOINING ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
...MY LADY?

PRRR! MEOW!

Black Butler

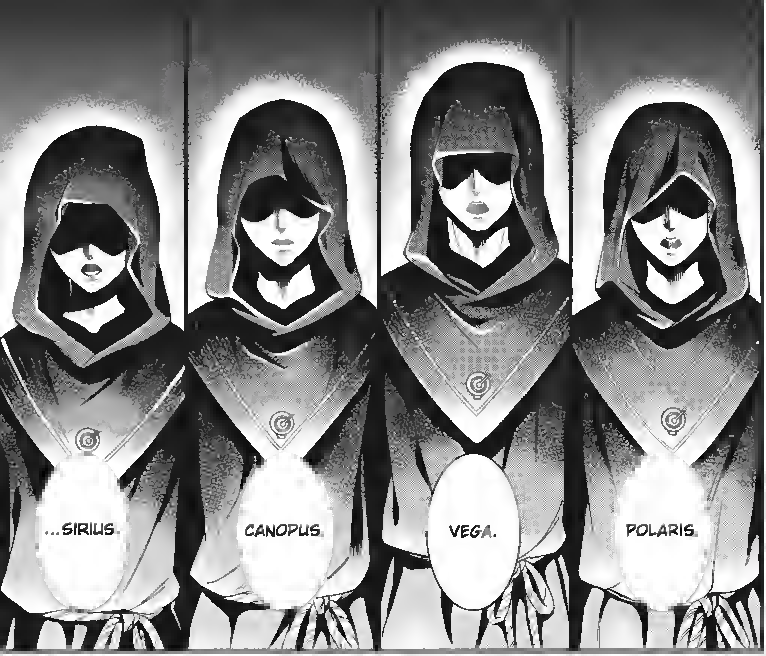
Chapter 112

In the evening : The Butler, Soloing

MEN IN ROBES HAVE LINED UP ONSTAGE...
ZONO (SHUFFLE)
ゾロ…
WHAT EXACTLY IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!?
SHIN (QUIET)
OHHH —!
SUU (INHALE)
すぅ…

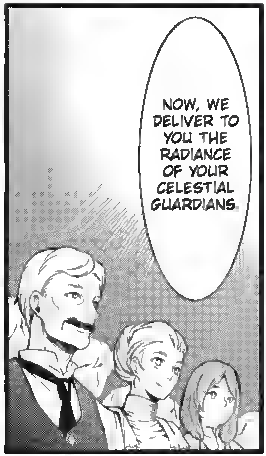
IN-CANDES-CENCE THAT SHINES FAR AND WIDE, FROM A SEA OF STARS THAT DOES ABIDE.
HARK, STARDUST. WITH YOUR WANDERING SOULS/
ILLUMINATING YOUR ENDLESS NIGHT...
...ARE STARS OF THE FIRST MAGNITUDE, SHINING BLUE AND BRIGHT.
WE OFFER UP OUR OWN LIGHTS TO PROTECT...
...THE ETERNAL RADIANCE.

PACHI
IS IT A SONG UNIQUE TO THIS GATHERING?
BUT IT'S NOT ONE I'VE EVER HEARD BEFORE.
PACHI (CLAP)
A CHOIR—
IS IT A HYMN THEY'RE SINGING?
WE THANK YOU FOR LENDING YOUR VOICES TO OUR SONG.
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
AND EVERY SINGLE STAR...
...POSSESSES THE RADIANCE TO GUIDE TRAVELLERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY.
EVERY HUMAN BEING...
...IS A TINY STAR DRIFTING IN THE VAST UNIVERSE.
THOUGH THEIR LIGHTS MAY BE FAINT, NO TWO STARS ARE THE SAME.


...SIRIUS.
CANOPUS.
VEGA.
POLARIS.

ALL OF US, TOGETH-ER!

COME ON.
LET'S SING.


NOW, WE DELIVER TO YOU THE RADIANCE OF YOUR CELESTIAL GUARDIANS.

BASA (FLAP)
G-GREEN-HILL!?
YOUR HAIR! IT'S—!?
!?
NOW, WON'T YOU PLEASE LISTEN TO OUR SONG?
THIS IS "SHINING STAR."

"SHINING STAR"
LYRICS AND MUSIC:
BLAVAT SKY
C'MON, LET'S SING IT! (OH!)
JUST LET IT ALL GO! (OH!)
TURN YOUR BACK
ON THAT CLOUDY SKY
AND SAY GOOD-BYE!
A GLITTER HERE
A WW THERE
SEE THE STARS?
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
YOU'VE COME SO FAR
HERE'S YOUR REWARD
THERE'S TWINKLING MAGIC
ON THE CARDS!

YOU'RE A SHINING STAR!
SMALL THOUGH YOUR LIGHT MAY BE!
YOU'RE A SHINING STAR!
TAKE MY HAND!
DO YOU SEE?
WE MAKE A CONSTELLATION
YOU AND ME!

JUST WHAT IS ALL THIS?
WAAAAAA (CHEER)
HEEERE COMES THE SECOND VERSE!
THEY STARTED IN WITH A MOST PECULIAR SONG AND DANCE OUT OF THE BLUE!?
TELL ME, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO!
DO YOU FEEL DOWN TO-NIGHT?
NO!
DON'T YOU WEEP!
STAY WITH ME.
KYAAAH!
VILLOOLET!

I'LL HEAR YOU OUT!
WAAAA!
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!
YOU'RE SOOO CUTE!!
GREEAHHHH!!
YOU GAVE IT YOUR BEST
SO I GIVE THIS TO YOU —
A SPARKLING TREASURE!
BANG
LORD REDMONNND-!
I'LL ALWAYS BE TRUE.
BLUENEER!

WE'RE SHINY STAAARS ~!
LINKED BY CONSTEL-LATIONS!

WE'RE SHINY STAAARS ~!
MELTING INTO THE NIGHT SKY!

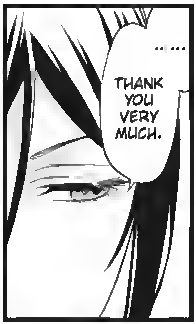
ME!
YOU.
THE STARS!
THE SKY.

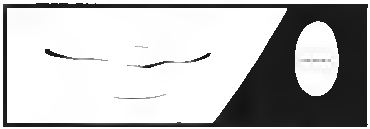
TO-GETHER, WE BECOME ONE SPHERE ~♪
ヴァンジャンプ
TAJAN USHIKASAMO
WAAA CHEERS

キャアアアア
THANKS SO MUCH!
THIS...
...IS WHAT THEY CALL CAROLLING!?
C'MAAN...
OOO.
WHAT IS THIS...?
WAAA (CHEER)
WHAT ARE THEY THINKING, THOSE FORMER PREFECTS...!?
EVEN VIOLET, WHO NEVER ONCE DANCED DURING THE OPENING FESTIVITIES OF WESTON'S CRICKET TOURNAMENT, IS—!!
AN ATMOSPHERE THAT EXCITES EVEN THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE MUSIC...
A SONG WITH A TEMPO QUICKER THAN A POLKA... A DANCE SO PERFECTLY COORDINATED, IT NEVER MISSES A BEAT..
COULD THIS!..
YAAAA
MA
WOW ...!!

...BE WHAT ELIZABETH CALLED "THE RADIANCE THAT ONLY EXISTS HERE"!?
ZAWA
ZAWA
SU (SWIP)
A FINE GENT LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE POURIN' YOUR OWN DRINK, MISTER.
HOW'S 'BOUT I DO IT FOR YOU!?

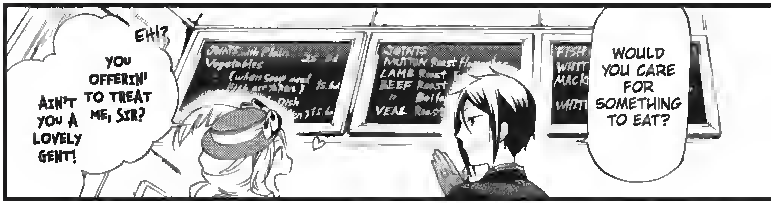
DA (CRASH)
FLOP!
SALMON
OH NO!
YOU SEE, I HAVE ONLY JUST BEEN REJECTED BY A GREAT BEAUTY. .
AWWW!
YOU POOR BEEEAR —!

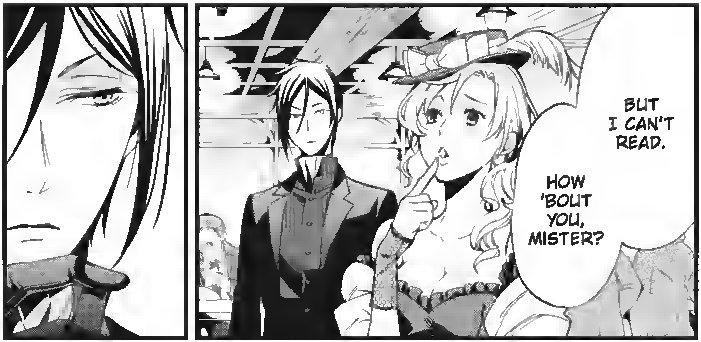

.. ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



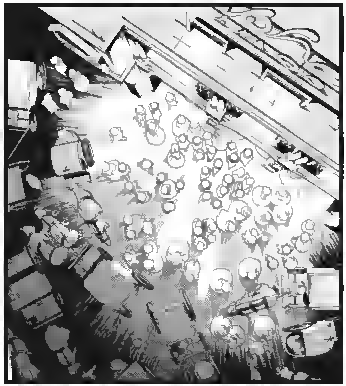
I REALLY FEEL LIKE TALKING TO SOME-ONE NOW.
THAT WOULD BE JUST AS WELL.

I COULD COMFORT YOU IF YOU WANT.
I'LL EVEN CUT YOU A DEAL.


EH!?
YOU OFFERIN' TO TREAT ME, SIR?
AIN'T YOU A LOVELY GENT!
WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOMETHING TO EAT?


BUT I CAN'T READ.
HOW 'BOUT YOU, MISTER?

ZAWA (MURMUR)
THAT PERFORMANCE SURE WAS FULL OF PASSION AND PUNCH...
INDEED...
ZAWA



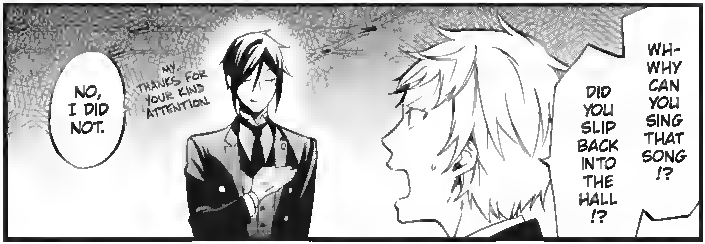
ZAWA
I SAYYY! FEEL LIKE A YOUNG LAD AGAIN, I DO!
REDMOND'S VIBRATO REALLY IS THE BEST!
But Greenhill sings more from his belly!
Ehhh?
DID YOU CATCH THE PART WHERE THE TWO PUT THEIR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER'S SHOULDERS!?
I WANNA TRY IT TOO!
IT WAS A DIFFERENT SONG FROM LAST TIME!
REALLY?
ZAWA

BUT—
SPHERE MUSIC HALL—
AT A GLANCE, THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF EVIL AFOOT TO WARRANT HER MAJESTY'S MISGIVINGS.
YOU'RE A SHINING STAAAR ~! SMALL THOUGH YOUR LIGHT MAY BEEE! YOU'RE A SHINING STAAAR ~! ♫
ZAWA (MURMUR)
.....
WELCOME BACK, YOUNG MASTER.
ZAWA
SEBA—
GYO (JOLT)
WHA —!?
!?

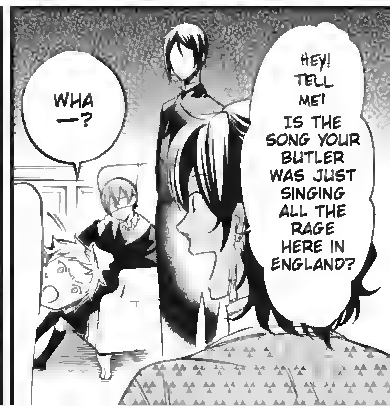
DEDEN
CRABAM♪
BUH—!
BUT-LER!?
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
YOU NAUGHTY MAN, YOU! BRINGING YOUR TINY YOUNG MASTER OUT WITH YOU FOR A NIGHT ON THE TOWN!
TELLIN' THE TRUTH, HE WAS! ABOUT BEIN' A BUTLER ~!
H-HOW SHAME-LESS! YOU'RE STILL ON THE JOB, MAN!!
OH? I DO BEG YOUR PARDON
DEARY MEEE~!
HE'S BEET RED. HOW CUTE IS THAAAT!?
THAT'S ENOUGH OUTTA YOU!
GO AN' OFF YOU GO!!
KYAAA!!
SEE YOU AGAIN!

I SEE
SO THAT IS WHAT TRANSPIRED AFTER I LEFT.
MM.
AS I SAID, THEY SANG AND DANCED, BUT THEIR PERFORMANCE WAS NOTHING LIKE ANY OPERA OR BALLET I'VE SEEN.
KOTO (KATAK)
コトッ
DID THAT SONG ...
...BY ANY CHANCE GO LIKE THIS?
WHAT'S MORE, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A CONCERT WHERE THE AUDIENCE IS ALLOWED TO SING ALONG AND WAVE AT THE PERFORMERS.
AND THE SONG WAS OF THE SORT YOU START HUMMING WITHOUT REALISING IT...

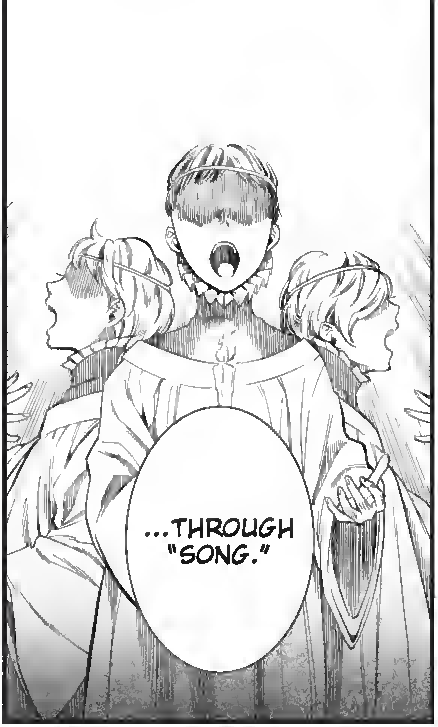
YOU'RE A SHINING STAR! SMALL THOUGH YOUR LIGHT MAY BE!
YOU'RE A SHINING STAR! TAKE MY HAND! DO YOU SEE?
WE MAKE A CONSTELLATION— YOU AND ME!



※MILK SWEETS ORIGINATING IN THE BENGAL REGION OF INDIA

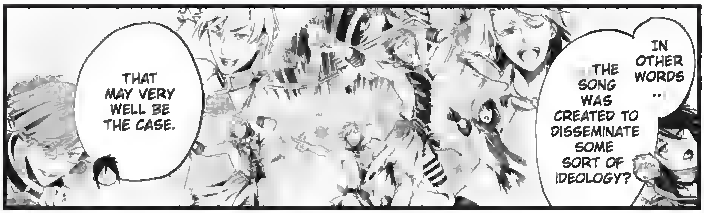


YOU HEARD THAT SONG FROM ONE OF THOSE PROSTITUTES EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU?
SEBAS-TIAN.
HMPH.
I KNEW IT.
JUST SO!
AND IT SEEMS SHE HEARD IT FROM ANOTHER WOMAN IN THE SAME LINE OF WORK.
LITERACY IN THE LOWER CLASSES OF ENGLAND IS STILL VERY LOW.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THUS, IF ONE WISHES TO SPREAD INFORMATION, WORD OF MOUTH REMAINS THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD.

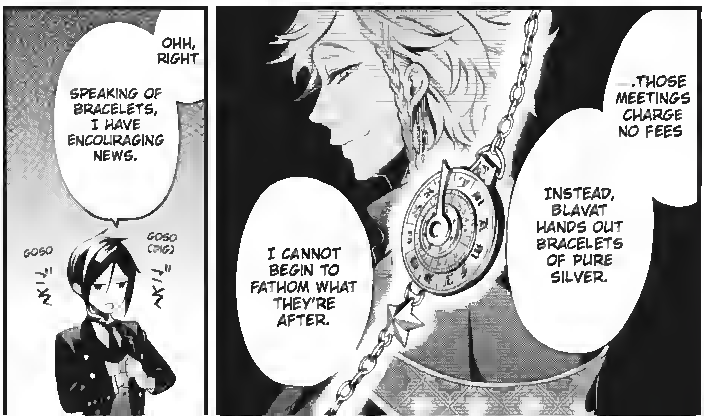

...THROUGH "SONG."

HOW-EVER...
...IF NOT PRESENTED CONCISELY, PEOPLE WILL FORGET RIGHT AWAY, NO MATTER HOW STRONG THE IMPACT OF THE MESSAGE.
AND THE BEST WAY OF MAKING SOMETHING STICK WITH PEOPLE BY WORD OF MOUTH IS..
...TO DO SO...

WORDS PUT TO A REPEATING RHYTHM ARE MUCH EASIER TO REMEMBER THAN THOSE MERELY SPOKEN.
FOR THAT VERY REASON HYMNS AND FOLK SONGS ARE USED TO EASILY CONVEY RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS AND MORAL LESSONS.


IN OTHER WORDS...
THE SONG WAS CREATED TO DISSEMINATE SOME SORT OF IDEOLOGY?
THAT MAY VERY WELL BE THE CASE.

HMM.
IT WAS A STRANGE SONG, TO BE SURE, BUT I DIDN'T DETECT ANY RADICAL IDEAS OR DANGEROUS CONCEPTS WOVEN IN...
I MEAN, ALL THE LYRICS... WERE "STARS"-THIS AND "STARS"-THAT.
IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE SONG WAS MADE TO BE ACCESSIBLE IN ORDER TO GATHER PEOPLE TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE.
WHEREVER PEOPLE ASSEMBLE, BUSINESS CAN BE DONE, AFTER ALL.
...BUT...


...THOSE MEETINGS CHARGE NO FEES
INSTEAD, BLAVAT HANDS OUT BRACELETS OF PURE SILVER.
I CANNOT BEGIN TO FATHOM WHAT THEY'RE AFTER.
OHH, RIGHT
SPEAKING OF BRACELETS, I HAVE ENCOURAGING NEWS.
GOSO
GOSO (ONG)

I THINK A BUNCH OF MY CUSTOMERS...
...MIGHT'VE HAD 'EM ON TOO—!
HAFU (BLOW)
HAFU
OH!
A FRIEND OF MINE WAS WEARIN' ONE JUST LIKE IIIIT!

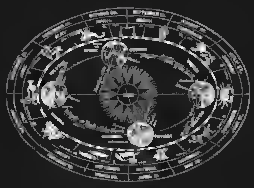
SHARA (JANGLE)
I BORROWED THIS FROM THE FELLOW WHO KICKED ME OUT EARLIER..
AND WAS QUERYING PEOPLE IN TOWN ABOUT IT WHEN—

SINCE SHE'S PENNILESS, I ASKED HER WHY SHE DIDN'T JUST UP 'N' SELL IT, BUT...
NGU (GULP)
NGU
...SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THERE BEIN' A ROOM YOU CAN'T GET INTO WITHOUT THAT.
HAGU (CHOMP)
HAGU
A ROOM WHERE THERE'S AAAALL KINDS OF FUN EVENTS!
MOGU CHUNCHO
MOGU

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE'S WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE TO ME.
ELSE I WOULDN'T NEED TO MAKE MONEY LIKE THIS, WOULD I—?
NOTHING THAT TEMPTIN' IS EVER FOR FREE, Y'KNOW?

EVENTS YOU CAN'T GET INTO WITHOUT THAT BRACELET?
YES.
SATURDAY MEETINGS OPEN TO ANYONE...
CLOSED EVENTS THAT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE HAD THEIR FORTUNES TOLD CAN ATTEND... HM?
COULD THAT BE WHERE ELIZABETH'S GONE OFF TO—?
SHARA
ミシャラッ…

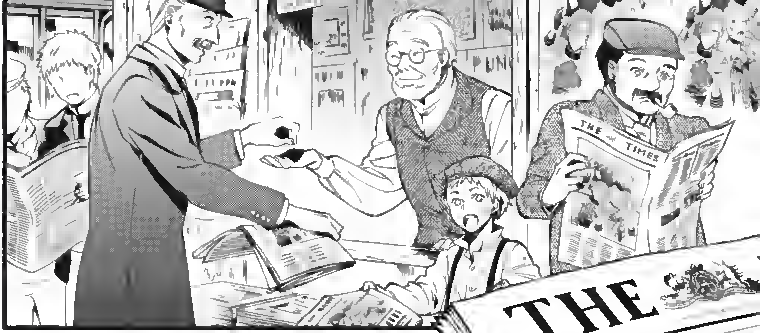
BATAN!
(SHUT)

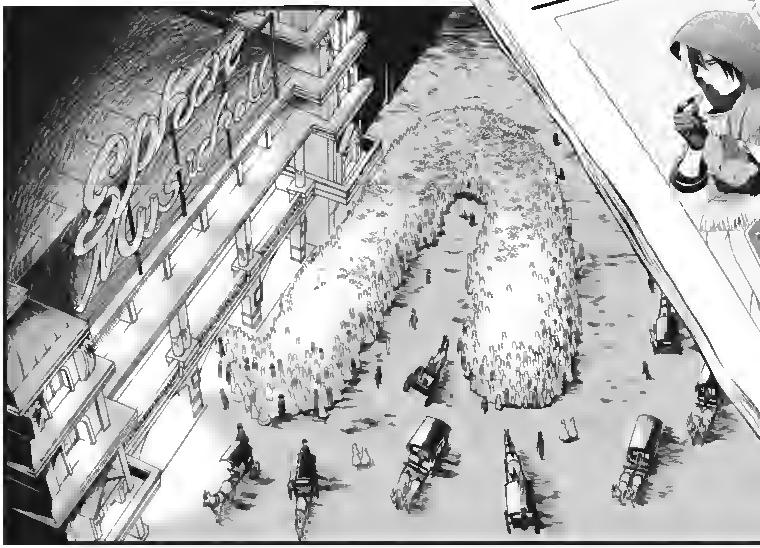


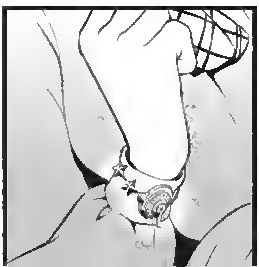
Black Butler

Chapter 113

At night : The Butler, Independent


THE TIMES
THE


Epsom Music Hall

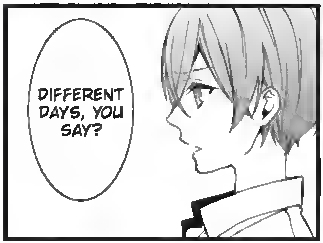


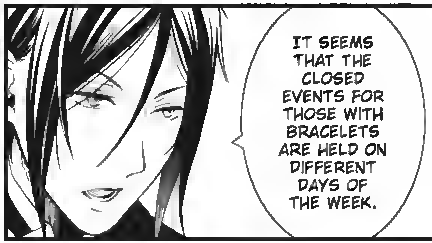
ガラガラガラ…
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
GARA
—AND THERE YOU HAVE THE INTERIM REPORT REGARDING SPHERE MUSIC HALL.
FROM HERE ON, I WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THE CLOSED EVENTS RESERVED FOR THOSE IN POSSESSION OF THE BRACELETS.
ALL TOLD, I HAVE YET TO WITNESS ANY ACTIVITY OF A TREASONOUS NATURE.
I SEE...
HOW-EVER...

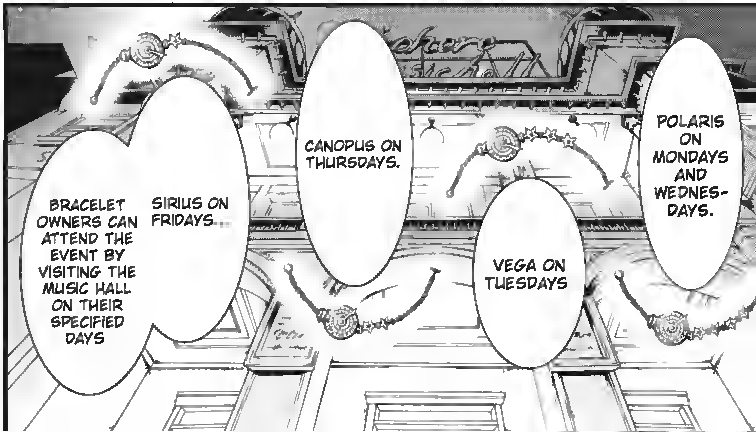
EVEN WAR.
COMMERCE.
RELIGION.
...ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WHEN PEOPLE GATHER—
SU (SWF)
THERE IS POWER IN NUMBERS, MY BOY.
DO I NOT SPEAK TRUTH, GREY?
THESE ARE...
THOSE MARKED HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY TAKEN IN BY THE GATHERING WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING.
ROSTERS OF THOSE IN THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS, SCOTLAND YARD, AND THE MILITARY.

...I NEVER IMAGINED THEIR PULL WAS SO VAST
THEY MAY NOT BE DOING ANYTHING MALICIOUS, BUT...
...THEY FRIGHTEN ME ALL THE SAME.
BESIDES ...
カチャ KACHA (CLINK)
...I...
...AM PARTIAL TO OPERA WHEN IT COMES TO SONGS.

CONCERNING THE FINDINGS FROM THE INVESTIGATION YOU ORDERED ME TO CONDUCT—

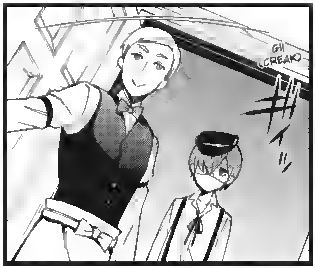

DIFFERENT DAYS, YOU SAY?


IT SEEMS THAT THE CLOSED EVENTS FOR THOSE WITH BRACELETS ARE HELD ON DIFFERENT DAYS OF THE WEEK.

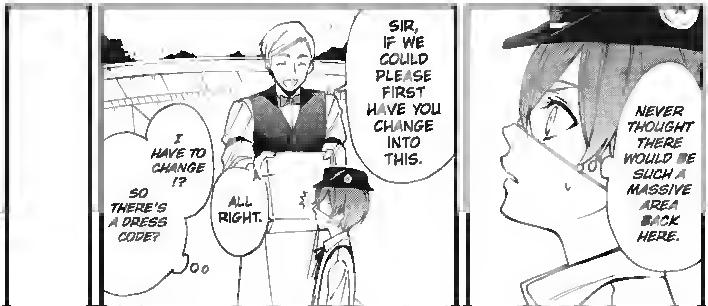

BRACELET OWNERS CAN ATTEND THE EVENT BY VISITING THE MUSIC HALL ON THEIR SPECIFIED DAYS
SIRIUS ON FRIDAYS...
CANOPUS ON THURSDAYS.
VEGA ON TUESDAYS
POLARIS ON MONDAYS AND WEDNES-DAYS.

NO.
LEAVE IT.
BUT MODIFYING THESE SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH IF YOU WISH...
SHARA (JINGLE)
TOMORROW BEING FRIDAY...
...ONLY YOU, A SIRIUS, ARE QUALIFIED TO ATTEND, YOUNG MASTER.
THESE TWO BRACELETS ARE VEGA AND POLARIS.
PAFU (POOMF)
THEY MAY KNOW EXACTLY WHO NUMBERS AMONGST THE "FEW."
THEY SAID, VERY FEW ARE BLESSED BY SIRIUS.
INDEED ...
HE MAY BE ABLE TO SEE THROUGH A MERE DISGUISE OF MY FACE AND THE BRACELET.
I WILL BE ON STANDBY OUTSIDE ...
...SO PLEASE SUMMON ME IF YOU DEEM IT NECESSARY.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
I GUESS I'LL GO ALONE TOMORROW.

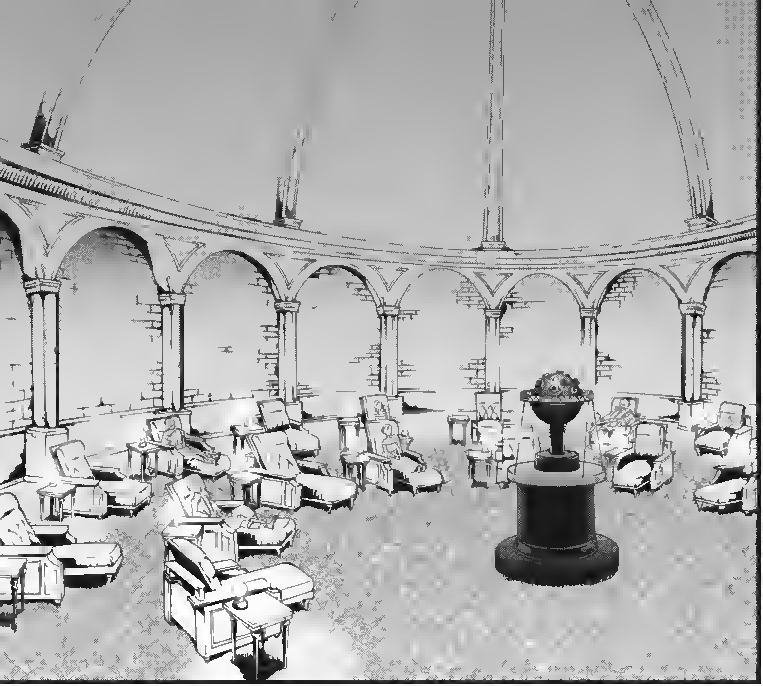
Spica Music Hall
ZAWA
ZAWA (CLAMOUR)
THE HALL ISN'T AS CROWDED AS ON SATURDAY.
SHARA (JINGLE)
AH!
GA (GRAB)
YES.
YOU'RE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF SIRIUS, RIGHT!?
WELCOME! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

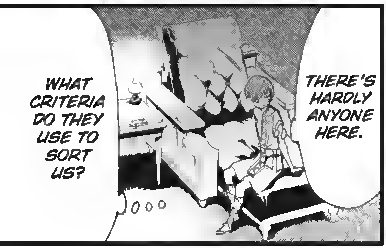

GI
(CREAK)

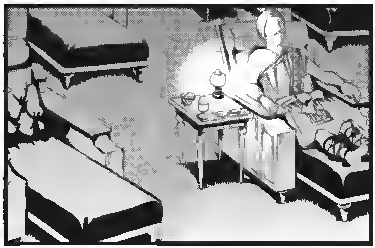
PLEASE, RIGHT THIS WAY!

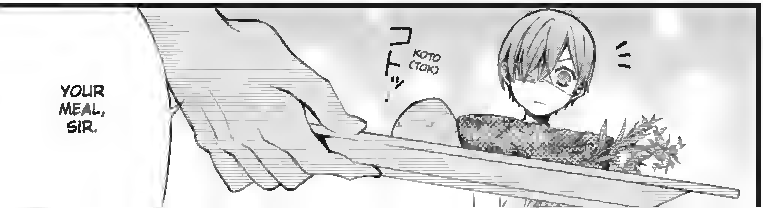

SIR, IF WE COULD PLEASE FIRST HAVE YOU CHANGE INTO THIS.
ALL RIGHT.
I HAVE TO CHANGE!?
SO THERE'S A DRESS CODE?
NEVER THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE SUCH A MASSIVE AREA BACK HERE.

MYYYYYY!
YOU LOOK GREAT!
WHAT KIND OF CLOTHING IS THIS ...?
THE BRAND ON MY BACK BETTER NOT BE SHOWING...
FAR TOO BREEZY FOR MY TASTE...
NOW THEN, PLEASE CONTINUE THROUGH THE CANIS MAJOR DOOR.
THERE'S A MEAL READY FOR YOU INSIDE.
GII (CREAK)



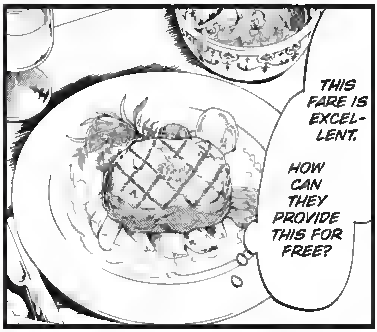

WHAT CRITERIA DO THEY USE TO SORT US?
THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE HERE.



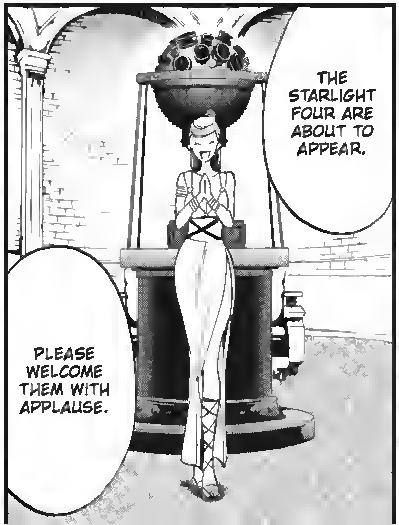

YOUR MEAL, SIR.
KOTO
CTOKO

WH-WHAT IS SHE WEARING?
IS THIS ONE OF LAU'S OPIUM DEUS!?

WE HAVE DESSERT AS WELL ...
...SO PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO ASK.


THIS FARE IS EXCELLENT.
HOW CAN THEY PROVIDE THIS FOR FREE?

GACHA GYACHAKO...

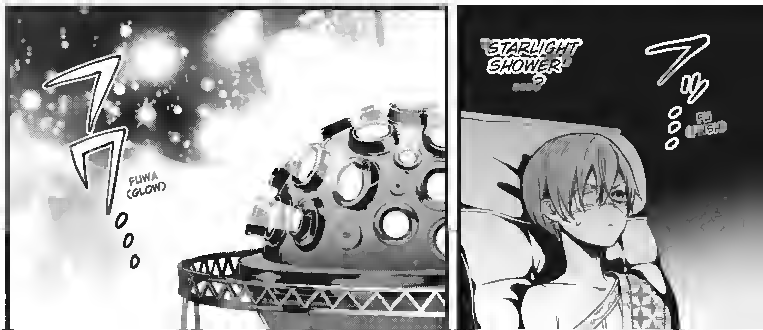

THE STARLIGHT FOUR ARE ABOUT TO APPEAR.
PLEASE WELCOME THEM WITH APPLAUSE.

THANK YOU FOR WAITING, EVERYONE.

(SWAK)
きゃあ
ZA (STEP)
!
KO (CLICK)
CHOSEN ONES OF THE RAREST STAR...
...WE BID YOU WELCOME TO THE "S4 SIRIUS-LIMITED EVENT."

YOU'VE ALL GIVEN IT YOUR BEST THIS WEEK.
SO THAT YOU MAY RADIANTLY SHINE ON NEXT WEEK TOO...
...WE'LL DELIVER TO YOU THE LIGHT OF HEALING.

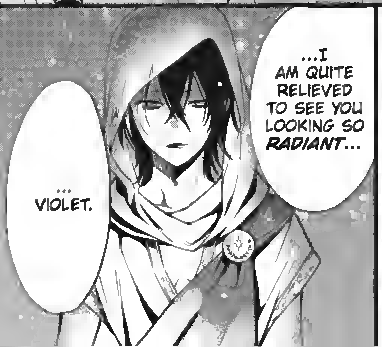
NOW, EVERYONE, LET'S BEGIN.
"STARLIGHT SHOWER."


FUWA (GLOW)
STARLIGHT SHOWER...?
FU (FLASH)

※A PROJECTOR POPULAR IN THE VICTORIAN ERA THAT DISPLAYED PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDES ON WALLS

"STARLIGHT SHOWER"
LYRICS AND MUSIC: PLAYAT SKY
THE FILTH AND THE GRIME THAT CLINGS TO YOU FROM YOUR DAY
LET'S QUICKLY WASH IT ALL CLEAN AWAY
STARLIGHT SHOWER WITH ME IN YOUR DREAM
PURGE EVEN THE STORMS THAT RAGE AND MURMUR IN YOUR HEART
WATCH THEM CLEAR AND THE DREARY CLOUDS PART
STARLIGHT SHOWER WITH ME IN YOUR DREAM
SO ADORINGLY PATTING YOUR HEAD, THAT'S ME.
LIKE A BREEZE, A SOFT KITTEN, AND MILKY TEA
SO LET EVERYTHING GO AND SHUT YOUR EYES, MY DEAR
YOU'RE ...
!

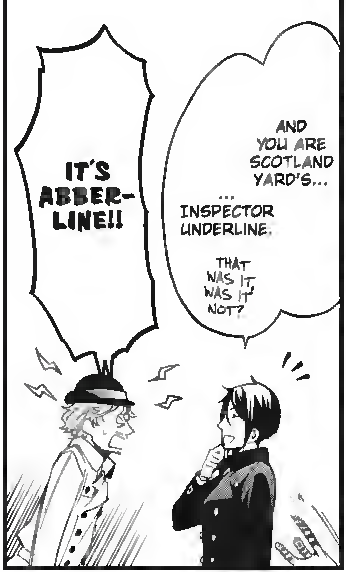
HERE AND NOW IN YOUR ROOM IS THE LAND OF MIDNIGHT
LET'S SPLASH EACH OTHER WITH BRIGHT MOONLIGHT
STARLIGHT SHOWER WITH ME IN YOUR DREAM
DRIFT ALONG WITH ME IN THIS SEA OF FORGETTING LIGHT
IT'S BETTER THAN TRYING TO FIGHT
STARLIGHT SHOWER WITH ME IN YOUR DREAM
THESE TWO ARMS THAT SO GENTLY CRADLE YOUR HEAD
LIKE HONEY, A BLANKET, AND LAVENDER
SO THROW IT ALL OFF, CAST IT ASIDE, CLOSE YOUR EYES
STARLIGHT SHOWER WITH ME IN YOUR DREAM
STARLIGHT SHOWER WITH ME IN YOUR DREAM
×REPEAT


...I AM QUITE RELIEVED TO SEE YOU LOOKING SO RADIANT...
...VIOLET.

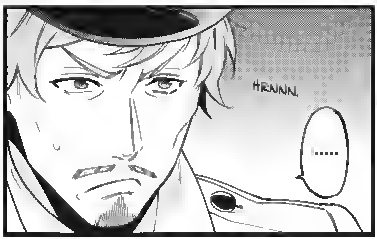
I TOO HAVE MY WORRIES, YOU KNOW.
...BUT...

PORORON (STRUM)
Not really.
.....
PORORON
PORORON
I SMELL A STRANGE SCENT...
WHAT'S THIS?
FUWA (WAFT)
I'M GETTING RATHER...
LITO (NOD)
...SLEE... PY..
PORORON

OD
(GASP)
I CAN BARELY SENSE THE YOUNG MASTER NOW...
IS HE UNCONSCIOUS? NO, HE
...IS ASLEEP?
(GRUMBLE)
IT WOULD SEEM HIS ATTEMPT AT BEING ENTRAPPED IS PROCEEDING SWIMMINGLY
DEAR ME...
WELL BEST TO WAIT HERE AND SEE UNTIL HE SUMMONS ME
OH!?


IT'S ABBER-LINE!!
AND YOU ARE SCOTLAND YARD'S... ... INSPECTOR UNDERLINE.
THAT WAS IT, WAS IT NOT?

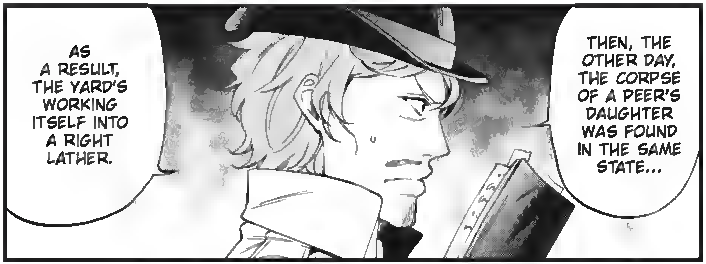
YOU'RE EARL PHANTOM-HIVE'S...
OH!


HRNNN.
.....

?

HEH HEH.
IT WAS A MERE JEST.
STILL ON THE JOB AT THIS HOUR?
ARE YOU PERHAPS INVESTI-GATING A CASE?

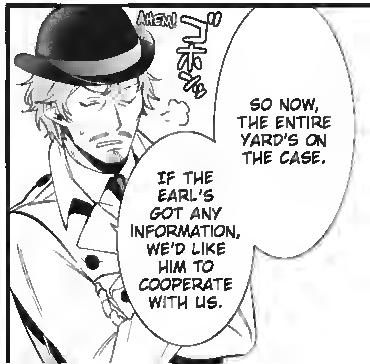
"CURIOUS"... YOU SAY?
HISO CHUCKLE
EH...
To be honest we've had a rash of rather curious corpses showing up of late.
HOW DO I EVEN PUT THIS...? THEY'RE TOO PRETTY, ALL NEAT AND TIDY.
THERE ARE NO EXTERNAL WOUNDS IN SIGHT, AND THEY ALL LOOK AS IF THEY'RE FAST ASLEEP.
POSTMORTEM LIVIDITY IS ALSO PRACTICALLY NIL.
THE CORPSES WERE IDENTIFIED AS A PROSTITUTE, A POSTMAN...
...AND A SHOE-MAKER'S ASSISTANT.
...AS SUCH, THEY HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON.


AS A RESULT, THE YARD'S WORKING ITSELF INTO A RIGHT LATHER.
THEN, THE OTHER DAY, THE CORPSE OF A PEER'S DAUGHTER WAS FOUND IN THE SAME STATE...

GNNRGH...
DON'T SAY THAT!

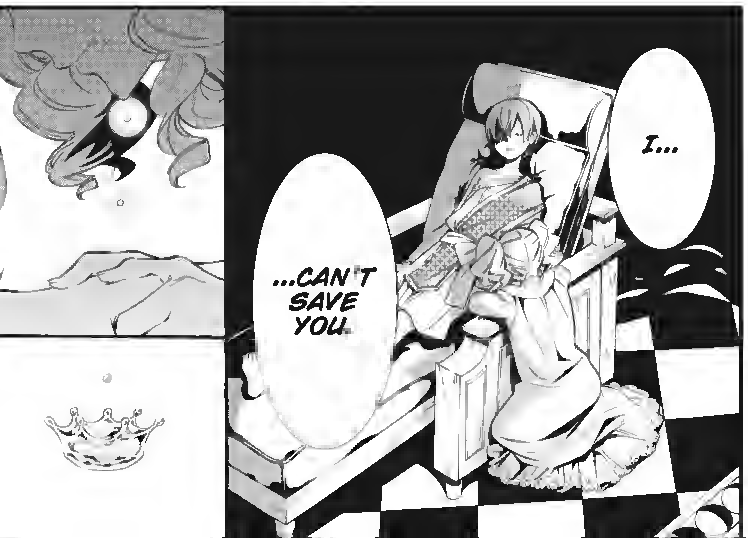
HOH.
SO UP TILL NOW, THE CORPSES WERE WRITTEN OFF AS ORDINARY UNNATURAL DEATHS...
...BUT NOW THAT A MEMBER OF THE PRIVILEGED CLASSES HAS DIED, IT IS WORTHY OF BEING A CASE, IS IT?
HOW VERY AMUSING.

ARE YOU SURE RELYING ON THE ARISTOCRAT OF EVIL IS A GOOD IDEA?
WILL YOU NOT INCUR LORD RANDALL'S WRATH?


AHEM!
SO NOW, THE ENTIRE YARD'S ON THE CASE.
IF THE EARL'S GOT ANY INFORMATION, WE'D LIKE HIM TO COOPERATE WITH US.

I'LL TAKE THE REPRIMAND IF IT MEANS CLOSING THE CASE POSTHASTE.
I'M NOT KEEN ON YOUR METHODS, BUT...
...BOTH YOUR AIM AND THAT OF THE YARD IS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE.
.. VERY WELL.
I WILL CONVEY YOUR MESSAGE TO MY MASTER.
MUCH OBLIGED.
OH, AND IF YOU NEED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME, DO IT IN PERSON!
AS YOU WISH, SIR.
BEAUTIFUL CORPSES THAT LOOK AS IF THEY ARE ASLEEP..
...HM?

CIEL...
I'M SORRY...


I...
...CAN'T SAVE YOU.

HA (GAS)

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

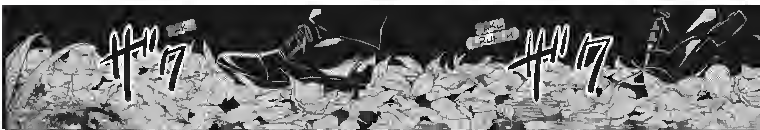
!!?
HA (WHAT)
DO (RADIUM)
DO
I FELL ASLEEP!?
HA (PANT)
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WHY!?
HAA

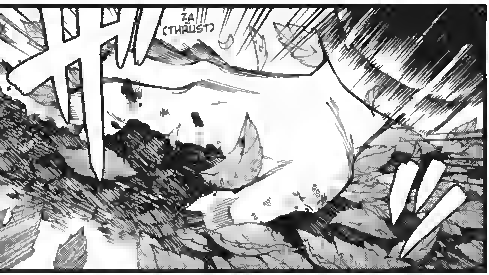
YOU... WERE SOUND ASLEEP.
YOU MUST'VE BEEN REALLY TIRED.
WHAT WAS I THINKING, DRIFTING OFF IN A SUSPICIOUS PLACE LIKE THIS!?
IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN THAT PERFUME I SMELLED BEFORE.
GOOD-NESS!
MY BODY FEELS SO LIGHT AND REFRESHED WHENEVER I COME HERE!
LET'S COME NEXT WEEK TOO!
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE SLEEPING ...!?
NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN HARMED, INCLUDING ME...

ANYWAY, I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE—
KURA (DIZZY)
UGH ...!?
TOSA (FWUMP)
EASY, NOW.
ARE YOU QUITE WELL?
...NGH!
YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO THIN...
YOU SHOULD EAT MORE.

HERE.
...HUH?
EVERYONE GETS THEM.
IT'S A GIFT.
ORANGE
I'LL GIVE YOU LOTS AS A SPECIAL TREAT.
POPOPO! (TOSS)
EH?
HUH!?
WHOA!
GOOD-BYE.
EAT THEM ALL.
SUTA (STRIDE)
SUTA SUTA...
DOCHA (HEFT)
WHAT THE—?
WH—

スーハッ
SUN
(SNIFF)

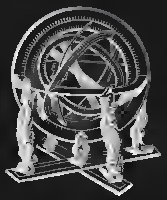

ザワ
ザワ


ZA
THRUST?

...
PHEW.

ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU

HE WAS RIGHT.
THESE CORPSES ARE INDEED FAR TOO LOVELY.



Black Butler

CHAPTER 1-1

At midnight : The Butler, Assaulting

WELCOME BACK, SIR
OH MY, YOU HAVE RETURNED WITH QUITE THE VARIETY OF SPOILS, I SEE.
どちゃ
POCHA (HEFT)...

トントン
ビクッ
DOSU (THUMP)
VIOLET FORCED THEM ON ME.
PASH! (CRACK)
IT APPEARS YOU HAD A WONDERFULLY RELAXING BREAK IN THERE.
EUMi
GARA (RATTLE)
WELL, HOW DID IT GO?
I THINK THEY'RE CALLING THEMSELVES "THE 11 STARLIGHT FOUR," NOW?
TCH!
THE P4 BROKE INTO SONG JUST AS THE PRIVATE EVENT BEGAN...
...AND I REMEMBER NOTHING OF WHAT CAME AFTER.
THEY MADE ME INHALE SOME KIND OF SLEEPING DRAUGHT, NO DOUBT.

SO, IN SHORT... THE ONLY FRUITS OF YOUR LABOURS ARE THESE SWEETS.
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT, YOU!

BUT...
...AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, BOTH I AND THE OTHERS EMERGED UNSCATHED.

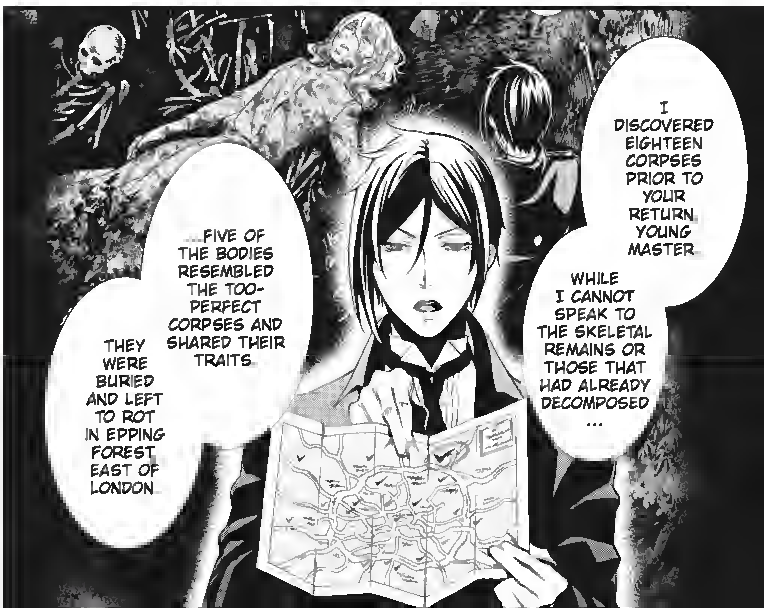
IT SEEMS UNUSUAL CORPSES HAVE BEEN TURNING UP WITH SOME REGULARITY RECENTLY.
ACCORDING TO THE INSPECTOR, THEY ARE NEAR PRISTINE, WITH NO EXTERNAL WOUNDS AND SCARCE POSTMORTEM BRUISING...

WELL? ANYTHING CURIOUS ON YOUR END?

AS IT HAPPENS, I RAN INTO INSPECTOR ABBERLINE QUITE BY CHANCE...
...AND HE HAD A MESSAGE FOR YOU.

"NEAR PRISTINE," YOU SAY ...?
ALSO, THE CLASSES AND PROFESSIONS OF THE DECEASED VARY GREATLY...
...LEAVING THE GOOD INSPECTOR TO BEMOAN THE SLOW PROGRESS OF THE INVESTIGATION.
HE REQUESTS YOUR COOPERATION IN THE EVENT THAT YOU COME ACROSS ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH THIS MATTER.
SO SCOTLAND YARD, SERVANT TO RIGHTEOUSNESS, IS BEGGING THE EVIL EARL PHANTOMHIVE FOR HELP?
HA!
IS IT GOING TO RAIN SPEARS TOMORROW?
HE STATED THAT, WHILE OUR METHODS MAY BE AT ODDS, OUR GOAL OF PROTECTING THE PEOPLE IS ONE AND THE SAME.
IS THAT RIGHT?
HE'S THE KIND OF MAN WHO'LL NEVER MAKE IT UP THE LADDER.

AS IT STANDS, WE CAN'T EVEN TELL WHETHER THESE ARE SUICIDES OR MURDERS.
I NEED MORE INFOR-MATION.
...I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT, SO...
GASA (SWIPE)
...I DID A BIT OF EXPLORING IN THE VICINITY OF LONDON.


I DISCOVERED EIGHTEEN CORPSES PRIOR TO YOUR RETURN, YOUNG MASTER.
WHILE I CANNOT SPEAK TO THE SKELETAL REMAINS OR THOSE THAT HAD ALREADY DECOMPOSED ...
...FIVE OF THE BODIES RESEMBLED THE TOO-PERFECT CORPSES AND SHARED THEIR TRAITS.
THEY WERE BURIED AND LEFT TO ROT IN EPPING FOREST, EAST OF LONDON.

I HAVE JUST FINISHED CHECKING THE MISSING PERSONS COLUMNS IN THE PAPERS AND ENQUIRING AT LOCAL PUBS.
THE CORPSES WERE THOSE OF A MARKET STALL KEEPER, A PAINTER, A CLERK FROM A FABRIC SHOP, A MAID, AND THE THIRD SON OF A TRADER... THEY HAD NOTHING IN COMMON.
LONDON
THAT DECIDES IT, THEN. WE HAVE TO VIEW THESE AS SERIAL MURDERS CARRIED OUT FOR SOME PURPOSE OR OTHER.
FIVE ALTOGETHER!?
YES.

...BUT WHOM DO YOU WISH TO TASK WITH THE AUTOPSIES?

SEBASTIAN.
COLLECT THOSE BODIES AND GET SOMEONE TO LOOK INTO THEM.
VERY WELL...

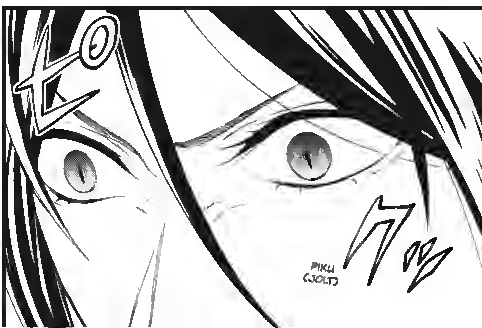
BLAST IT...
WE'D HAVE CAUSE OF DEATH SWIFTLY IF THE UNDERTAKER WAS AROUND.

GARI (SCRITCH)
AH, YES...
THAT'S RIGHT
DRAT...

AS YOU WISH, SIR.
I SHALL SEE TO IT AT ONC—
GUIL GUIL

I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO SEND WORD TO ABBERLINE AND GET HIM TO INVESTI-GATE...

..?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SEBAS-TIA—


PIKU (JOLT)

!?
WHA—!?
HEY!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU!?
GATA
GATA
GATA

I SMELL BLOOD.
HUH ...!?
BUT I'M NOT HURT ANY-WHE—
YES, YOU ARE.
RIGHT HERE.
THAT'S A...
...NEEDLE MARK ...!!

I APOLOGISE FOR MY NEGLIGENCE.
I CLEARLY OVERESTIMATED MY ABILITY TO SENSE HARM BEFALLING YOU.
KAYA WARNS
WE MUST HAVE YOU TREATED RIGHT AWAY!
BA CRUSH

GAN
GAN (BANG)
WHAT KIND OF SCOUNDREL WOULD COME CALLING AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT!?
MAY I ASK WHO THE HELL YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
HUNH!?
BAN (WHAM)

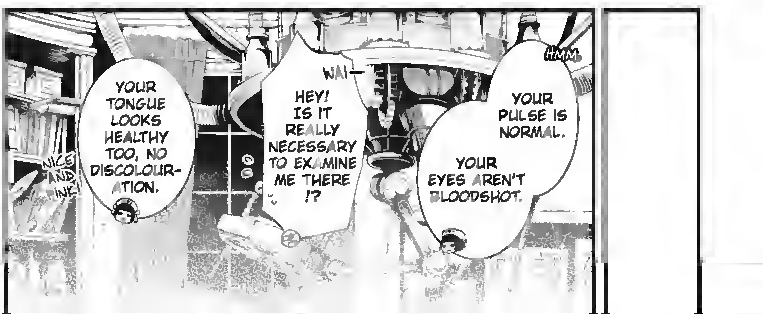
HERR WOL-FRAM, PLEASE FORGIVE THE LATE HOUR
WE MUST HAVE LADY SULLIVAN EXAMINE THE YOUNG MASTER FORTH-WITH.
HUH?
OH..
HRM.
IT'S YOU TWO...
WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT, THEN?
MY LADY.
GASHAN (CLANK)
GASHAN
OHHH! WHY, IF IT ISN'T CIEL!
IF YOU'VE COME TO SNEAK INTO MY BEDCHAMBER, YOU MIGHT TRY GOING ABOUT IT A BIT MORE QUIETLY, HMM?
GASHAN

GASHAN COUNKO
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT!?
A NEW INVENTION OF MINE!
"ARACHNE PATOUSA," MY SPIDER LEGS!
THEY CAN HANDLE ROUGH TERRAIN TOO!
LADY SULLIVAN.
THE YOUNG MASTER MAY HAVE BEEN DRUGGED.
WHAT!?
I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT HIM RIGHT NOW!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS ROOM...!?
THERE'S NOT EVEN A WINT OF WHAT IT USED TO LOOK LIKE!
GACHA
GACHA (CLINK)
NA?
OHH, HER MAJESTY GRANNY VICTORIA HAD IT ALL PUT TOGETHER FOR ME.

I'D EXPECT NO LESS OF HER MAJESTY ...
THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY IS PERSONALLY INVESTED IN THIS, HUH?
SHE'S AS CUNNING AS EVER.
YOU MEAN SHE COMES HERE HERSELF!?
SHE VISITS ME FOR FUN FROM TIME TO TIME
SHE BRINGS CAKE TOO.

NOW THEN
TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES AND COME OVER HERE.
WE ALREADY KNOW EVERY INCH OF EACH OTHER INTIMATELY.
DON'T BE SHY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT IT SO SUGGESTIVELY!!


HMM
YOUR PULSE IS NORMAL.
YOUR EYES AREN'T BLOODSHOT.
WAI—
HEY! IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO EXAMINE ME THERE!?
YOUR TONGUE LOOKS HEALTHY TOO, NO DISCOLOURATION.
NICE AND PINK

I JUST FELT LIGHT-HEADED, THAT'S ALL...
DOES ANYTHING ELSE SEEM OFF TO YOU?
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT BEING POISONED.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY POISON SO SLOW-ACTING WHEN INJECTED SUBCUTANEOUSLY.
OH!
THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS PUNCTURE WOUND...?
PERHAPS THE DIZZY SPELL WAS CAUSED BY ANAEMIA FROM GETTING UP TOO QUICKLY AFTER WAKING?

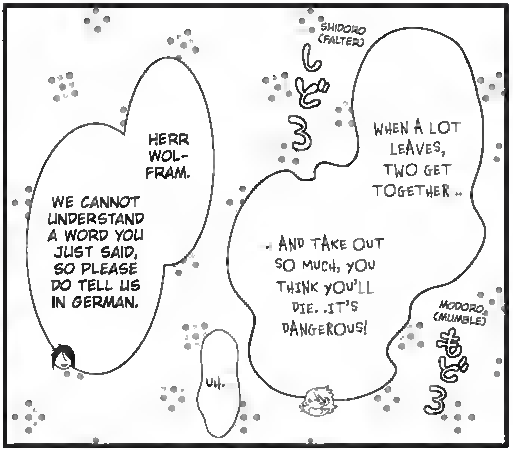
WHAT IS IT, WOLF?

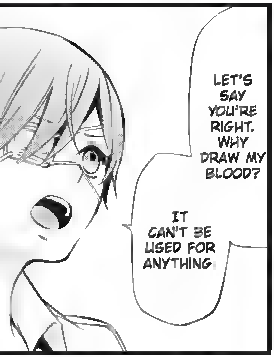
IT...
...WASN'T PUT IN.
WHAT IF IT WAS PULLED OUT?

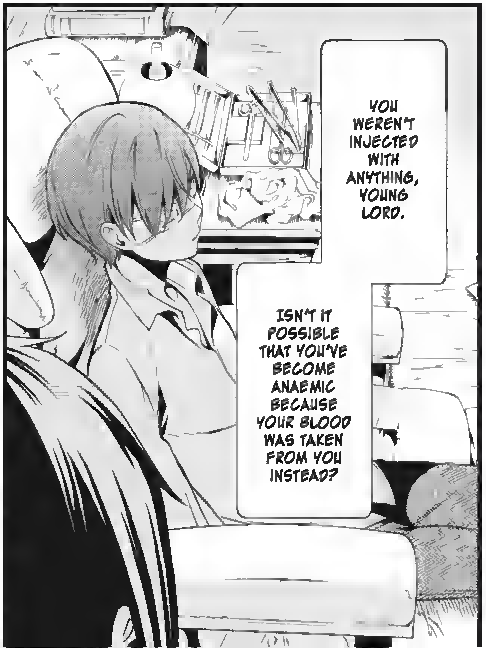
ER... SO...

MY LADY!
THAT IS NOT WHAT I MEANT!!
WELL...?
IS THAT NOT WHAT MEN USUALLY DO...?

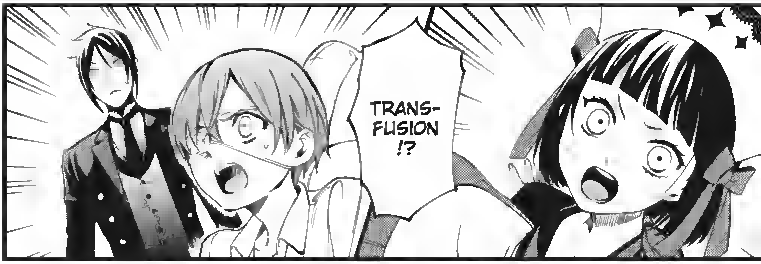
GOHON
COUGH!


SHIDORO
(FALTER)
HERR WOL-FRAM.
WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU JUST SAID, SO PLEASE DO TELL US IN GERMAN.
UH.
WHEN A LOT LEAVES, TWO GET TOGETHER..
..AND TAKE OUT SO MUCH, YOU THINK YOU'LL DIE. IT'S DANGEROUS!
MODORO
(MUMBLE)

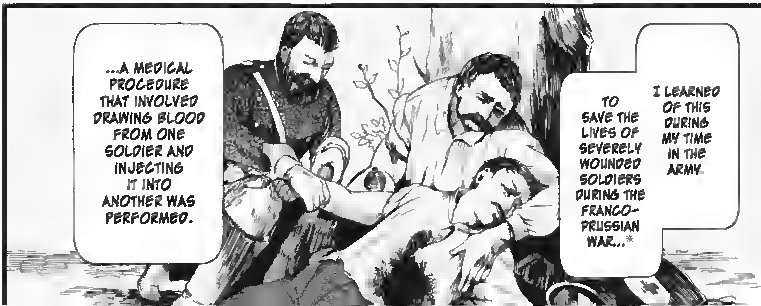

LET'S SAY YOU'RE RIGHT. WHY DRAW MY BLOOD?
IT CAN'T BE USED FOR ANYTHING


YOU WEREN'T INJECTED WITH ANYTHING, YOUNG LORD.
ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU'VE BECOME ANAEMIC BECAUSE YOUR BLOOD WAS TAKEN FROM YOU INSTEAD?

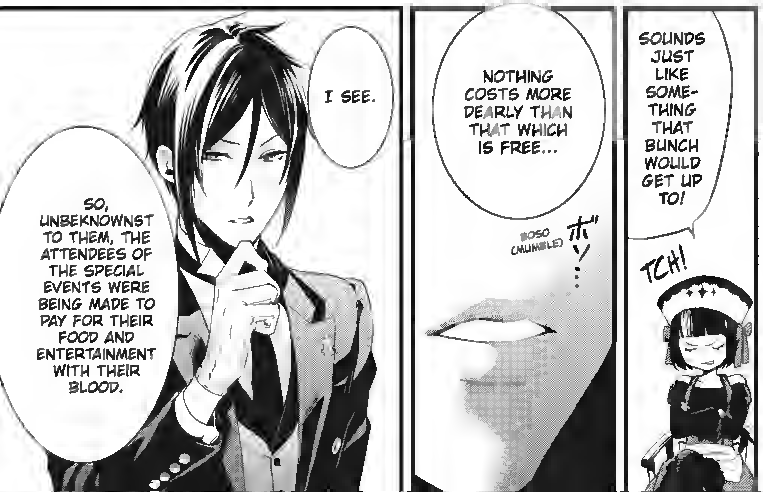
BUT IT CAN.



*A CONFLICT BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE NORTHERN GERMAN REGION KNOWN AS THE KINGDOM OF PRUSSIA THAT LASTED FROM 1870-1871. PRUSSIA WAS VICTORIOUS AND TOOK A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE CONSOLIDATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE.


I LEARNED OF THIS DURING MY TIME IN THE ARMY.
TO SAVE THE LIVES OF SEVERELY WOUNDED SOLDIERS DURING THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR...*
...A MEDICAL PROCEDURE THAT INVOLVED DRAWING BLOOD FROM ONE SOLDIER AND INJECTING IT INTO ANOTHER WAS PERFORMED.

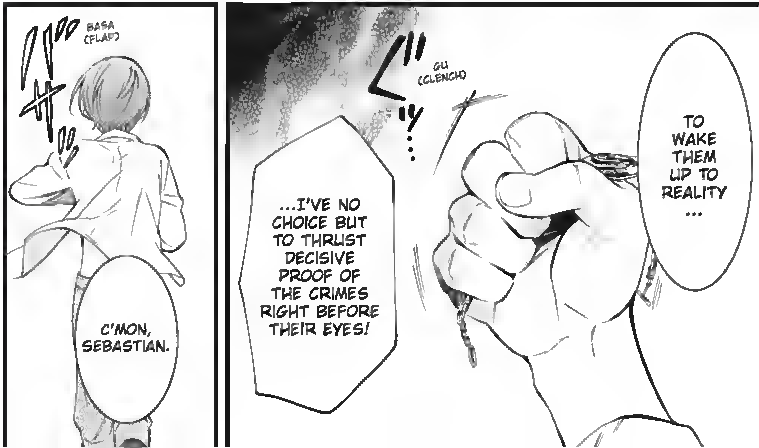
BUT THE SUCCESS RATE OF BLOOD TRANS-FUSIONS IS EXTREMELY LOW!
THE CONDITIONS FOR ACHIEVING A SUCCESSFUL TRANSFUSION HAVE YET TO BE DETERMINED! IT'S STILL A WHOLLY IMPERFECT PROCESS, YOU KNOW!?
TRUE.
BUT IF THE METHOD CAN BE MADE TO WORK, IT WILL BE A "MIRACLE CURE" THAT CAN BRING THE MORTALLY WOUNDED BACK FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH.
I'VE HEARD THAT THE ARMY IS ACTIVELY CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION TO DISCOVER JUST WHAT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.


SOUNDS JUST LIKE SOME-THING THAT BUNCH WOULD GET UP TO!
TCH!
NOTHING COSTS MORE DEARLY THAN THAT WHICH IS FREE...
BOSO (MUMBLE)
I SEE.
SO, UNBEKNOWNST TO THEM, THE ATTENDEES OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS WERE BEING MADE TO PAY FOR THEIR FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT WITH THEIR BLOOD.

COLLECTING BLOOD FROM A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE MAKES SENSE.
CERTAINLY, A VAST AMOUNT OF DATA WOULD BE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THAT RESEARCH.
THAT SAID, DRAGGING CIVILIANS INTO SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS JUST PLAIN VICIOUS.
THERE IS POWER IN NUMBERS, MY BOY.
COMMERCE.
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WHEN PEOPLE GATHER.
RELIGION.
EVEN WAR.

BUT...
...THE ONE THING I DO KNOW IS THAT THOSE MEETINGS ARE, WITHOUT A DOUBT, A MENACE.
WE'RE JUST GUESSING AT ALL THIS.
ZOKU (SHIVER)
AND...
WHAT WILL YOU DO, CIEL?
...ELIZABETH IS THERE!

IT WOULD DO NO GOOD TO RAISE A HUE AND CRY ABOUT THE GATHERINGS BEING "DANGER-OUS."
GUARA (TANGLED)
ELIZABETH AND THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS WON'T HEAR US OUT.
QUITE RIGHT...
THEY ARE ALL THOROUGHLY UNDER THE SPELL.


BASA (FLAP)
C'MON, SEBASTIAN.
GU (CLENCH)
...I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO THRUST DECISIVE PROOF OF THE CRIMES RIGHT BEFORE THEIR EYES!
TO WAKE THEM UP TO REALITY ...

I'M GOING TO EXPOSE THIS FOUL SCHEME OF THEIRS, WHATEVER IT TAKES!

UGH!
WHY IS IT WE ONLY EVER GET THE MOST WRETCHED CASES IN THIS TOWN!?
PON (THUD)

WHY, I'VE EVEN HAD TO CANCEL MY MANICURE!
ALL THE SAME ...
...THOSE NAILS OF YOURS DIDN'T EVEN LAST A MONTH OUT IN THE COUNTRY, DID THEY ...
KARON (CLACK)
...DEAR GRELLE?
OOH! HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE...

...OTHELLO.
HIYAAA!
IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU CATCH A REAPER FROM FORENSICS VISITING THE SCENE OF A CRIME!
GOOD-NESS! THE HUMAN WORLD IS FULL OF ORGANIC SCENTS, AS ALWAYS, I SEE.
NNN
I THINK IT'S BEEN ALMOST FIFTY YEARS SINCE I LAST TOOK A WHIFF

HUP!
IT'S 'COS THERE'S NO END TO THESE NASTY CASES LATELY
MY GETTING DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE...
...CAN ONLY MEAN THAT OUR SUPERIORS HAVE FINALLY STARTED TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT ALL THIS, DON'T YOU THINK?
To be continued in Black Butler 24

Black Butler

黒執事

Downstairs

Wakana Haduki

7

Saito Torino

Tsuki Sorano

Chiaki Nagaoka

Zen

*

Takeshi Kuma

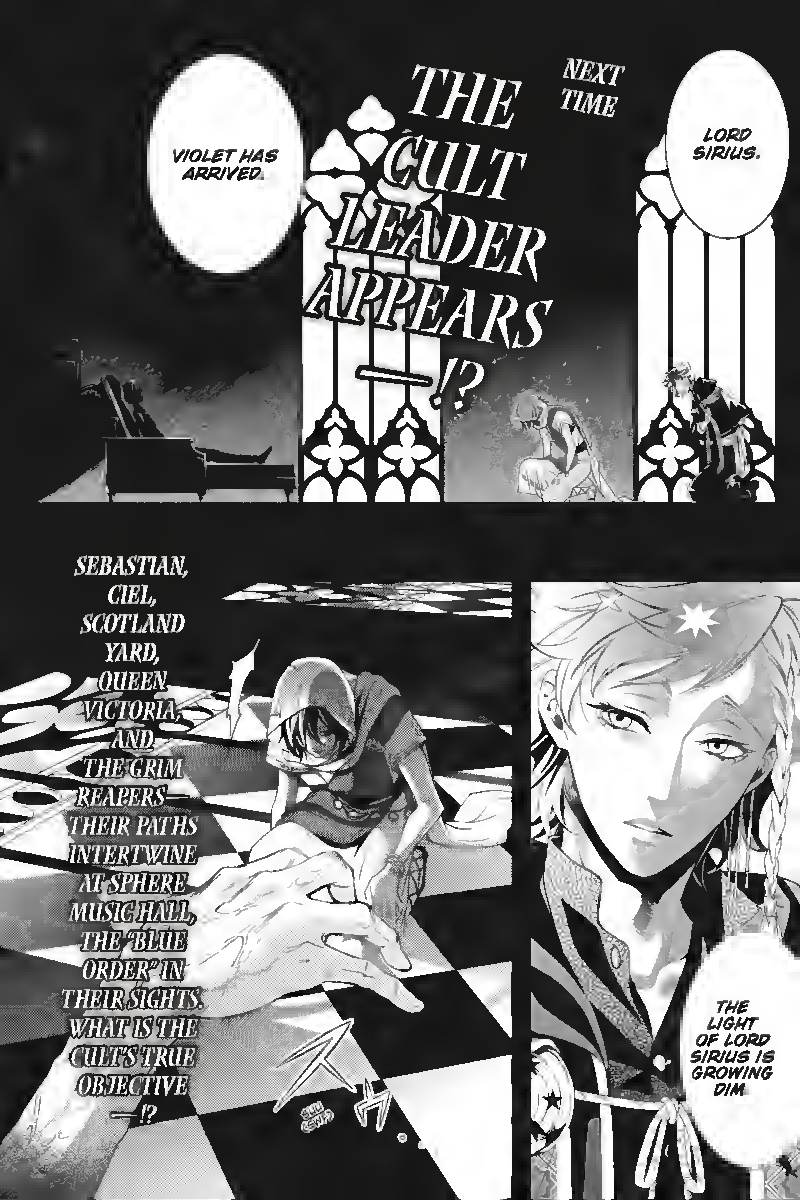
*

Yana Toboso

Adviser

Rico Murakami

Special thanks to You!


NEXT TIME
THE CULT LEADER APPEARS —!?
VIOLET HAS ARRIVED.
LORD SIRIUS.
SEBASTIAN, CIEL, SCOTLAND YARD, QUEEN VICTORIA, AND THE GRIM REAPERS— THEIR PATHS INTERTWINE AT SPHERE MUSIC HALL, THE "BLUE ORDER" IN THEIR SIGHTS. WHAT IS THE CULT'S TRUE OBJECTIVE —!?
SWISH
THE LIGHT OF LORD SIRIUS IS GROWING DIM.

THAT'S WHAT I, THE QUEEN'S WATCHDOG, AM HERE FOR.
THIS IS WHY I CAN'T STAND MEN!
UNLIKE YOU TWO, HAUTE COUTURE IS DELICATE!
IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH...
...THE ARISTOCRAT OF EVIL GETS DOWN TO WORK!!
Black Butler 24
COMING SOON!

Translation Notes

Inside front cover

Shogi piece

Blavat is holding a *hisha*, or a rook.

Inside back cover

Shogi *shoreikai*

The shogi *shoreikai* trains amateurs aspiring to be professional shogi players. The Japan Shogi Association runs the organisation.

Inside back cover

Ryu-oh

The annual Ryu-oh tournament is one of the seven major professional shogi title tournaments. The winner is awarded the title *ryu-oh*. It is the most prestigious shogi title along with *meijin*.

Page 35

Canopus

Canopus is a first magnitude star, second-brightest in the night sky, and is named for the navigator of the Greek king Menelaus. It is part of the constellation Carina, which is Latin for "keel." A keel is a beam that serves as the foundation of a boat, around which the rest of the boat is built. It can be found protruding from the bottom of a ship. The ship in question here is the Argo, the vessel upon which Jason and the Argonauts of Greek myth sailed for their journey to secure the Golden Fleece. Canopus was originally part of the constellation Argo until 1752, when Argo was divided into three separate constellations.

Page 61

Sirius

Known as the "Dog Star," Sirius is a first magnitude star and the brightest in the Earth's night sky. It is roughly twice as bright as Canopus. The name means "scorching" in Greek. It is part of the constellation Canis Major ("Greater Dog" in Latin).

Page 61

Vega

Vega, sometimes called the "Harp Star," is the fifth brightest star in the Earth's night sky and part of the constellation Lyra, in which it is the brightest. It is also the star that represents the deity Orihime in the Japanese legend behind Tanabata ("Star Festival"), in which two lovers, separated by the Milky Way, are allowed to meet once a year on the seventh day of the seventh month.

Page 61

Polaris

Polaris is the brightest star in the constellation of Ursa Minor ("Little Bear"). It is commonly called the "North Star" and has long been used for navigation. Its name derives from Latin, meaning "polar star."

Page 82

Blavat Sky

Blavat's full name is a reference to the renowned and controversial nineteenth century spiritualist, medium, occultist, and esotericist Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831–1891). Madame Blavatsky was an authority on the occult theosophy movement and obtained an international following with her authored works.

Page 90
Polka
Of Bohemian origin, polka is a fast dance for couples in two-four time

Page 98
Sandesh
Sandesh is a general term for a wide variety of sweets from the Bengal region of India. The basic ingredients for these sweets are typically sugar and curdled cheese made from boiled milk (*chhana*).

Page 121
Magic lantern
Magic lanterns were image projectors and were popular during the Victorian era. Images on painted or photographic glass slides were projected onto a screen.

Page 146
Epping Forest
An immense area of woodland northeast of London, this former royal forest was dedicated to the people by Queen Victoria in 1882, after which it became known as "The People's Forest."

Page 154
Arachne Patousa (ἀράχνη πατουσα)
Greek for "spider legs." In Greek myth, Arachne was a weaver who was transformed into a spider after challenging the goddess Athena.

Page 160
Blood transfusion
The first successful transfusions of human blood were performed in Great Britain in the nineteenth century

Black Butler

Yana Toboso

Author's note

Every time I move, I think, "This time, I'll sort through my stuff and get rid of the things I don't use," but I'm usually too busy to actually do that. So I end up bringing all those possessions with me and live two, maybe three, years, surrounded by cardboard boxes. But this time around, I'd like to do it right and live properly, so I moved my studio. So here's Volume 23 on a "fresh start" note.

Black Shogi
XXIII

A shogi tale for young men in which a mysterious English gentleman takes on the shogi shoreikai where numerous shogi prodigies and beasts compete against one another. There, he challenges Ryu-oh Blavat to his title (or not)!

...or something

BLACK BUTLER 23

Yana Toboso

Translation: Tomo Kimura
Lettering: Tania Biswas, Alexis Eckerman, Bianca Pistillo

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

KUROSHITSUJI Vol. 23 © 2016 Yana Toboso / SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. First published in Japan in 2016 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. English translation rights arranged with SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. and Yen Press, LLC through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.

English translation © 2015, 2016 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

Yen Press, LLC supports the right to free expression and the value of copyright. The purpose of copyright is to encourage writers and artists to produce the creative works that enrich our culture.

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is a theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like permission to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), please contact the publisher. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

Visit us!
† yenpress.com
† facebook.com/yenpress
† twitter.com/yenpress
† yenpress.tumblr.com
† instagram.com/yenpress

First Yen Press Edition: November 2016

The chapters in this volume were originally published as ebooks by Yen Press.

Yen Press is an imprint of Yen Press, LLC.
The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Yen Press, LLC.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2010525567

ISBNs: 978-0-316-50277-1 (paperback)
978-0-316-50277-1 (ebook)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

BVG

Printed in the United States of America